

Hafa Adai!

Governor says the House never invited him to testify. **PAGE 2**

Missing person: Juan K. Igisomar. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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SAIPAN SUNRISE

The panoramic view overlooking the Forbidden Island and the Pacific Ocean provides a majestic foreground for last Thursday's sunrise.

MARK FARMER

Torres to OK retiree bonuses bill ASAP

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After about four months of dispute over a bill to give CNMI retirees \$1,000 bonuses, the House of Representatives and the Senate finally reached a compromise with House Bill 22-95 passing the Legislature yesterday. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres says he is ready to sign the bill as soon as it reaches his desk.

During a House session yesterday, H.B. 22-95 Senate Substitute 1 gained a unanimous vote in favor of its passage, with 16 members of the House of Representatives vot-

ing "yes" and one abstention. Rep. Celina Babauta (D-Saipan) abstained from voting,

stating that because her husband is a retiree, she would indirectly benefit from the bill and feels it's a conflict of interest on her part. However, she stated that she fully supports the bill and its amendments.

In a separate statement from Torres yesterday, he said he currently awaits the bill and will sign it as soon as possible



Torres

so retirees can finally receive their long awaited bonuses that were first promised them in December 2021.

"I humbly await to sign this bill into law so that our retirees can finally receive their well-deserved bonus. To our retirees, we are one step closer to getting this bonus out to you. Moving forward,

please know that I will continue to ensure that you remain a priority," Torres said.

The governor thanked the House of Representatives for passing the bill yesterday as well as the Senate and the Department of Finance for working together to make the amendments that were passed last week.

"Although it is unfortunate that it took several months to make this possible for our

See TORRES on **Page 4**

Kilili says caregivers program now available to NMI veterans' families

Marianas families with a disabled veteran to care for may now apply to receive help—including a monthly stipend—from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) yesterday.

"This is very good news

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

for Marianas veterans who contacted their congressional office earlier this year after their families were rejected for the VA caregivers program," Sablan said. "Some Marianas veterans were even told they did not live in the United States and so were not eligible, a mistake I immediately raised with Department of Veterans Affairs."

As a result, the department informed Sablan yesterday that the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers would now be available for families in the Marianas.

"I want to thank everyone at the department who responded to the error of telling Marianas veterans they do not live in the United States," he said.

See KILILI on **Page 4**

Resolution for \$500 gas voucher passes Legislature

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate joint resolution in support of implementing a \$500 gas voucher program that will help CNMI residents in buying increasingly expensive gas has passed the House of Representatives and will now move to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for his approval.

During a House session yesterday, 16 members of the House of Representatives voted "yes" to passing Senate Joint Resolution 22-08 in support of a \$500 gas voucher program, with one abstention.

That doesn't mean that you can now expect to get a \$500 voucher that you can use to buy fuel. A joint resolution is essentially a recommenda-

tion or request from the Senate and the House to the governor. The governor has the power to grant this request,

in this case authorizing the allocation of federal American Rescue Plan Act funds to subsidize these vouchers.

Rep. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota), the only mem-

See RESOLUTION on **Page 4**



INSIDE



LOCAL

Atkins Kroll Inc has acquired Avis Rent a Car, Budget Rent a Car, and Payless Rent a Car

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LOCAL

More than 250 people supported Taiwan's presence in the 75th World Health Assembly.

Page 12



LIFE & STYLE

A forensic psychologist testifies that Amber Heard suffers from borderline personality disorder.

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Local



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signs the proclamation that designates May 2-6, 2022 as Public Service Recognition Week.

Governor says the House never invited him to testify

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres claims that the House of Representatives never once invited him in his personal capacity to testify against the allegations against him.

In a brief statement from Torres last Tuesday, he said he wants to clarify for the community that if the House of Representatives had invited him in his personal capacity to answer questions—and not as governor—then he would've gladly done so. However, that was not the case and now, the situation has gotten to the point of impeachment and even criminal charges.

"They never once invited me to come. I've said it numerous times: 'Invite me to come, and I'll come, and I'll testify. You want me to be under oath, I'll do it.' But obviously they chose to do it their own way. Now it is what it is. But I just wanted people in the community to know that I've always said that I'm willing to come in and testify and have a discussion and answer your questions," he said.

Torres explained that had the House of Representatives, specifically the House's Judiciary and Governmental

Operations Committee, invited him instead of issuing a subpoena for the governor, he would have gladly came in and answered any, if not all, their questions.

"Just to make it clear: I've said it in the past and I'll say it again—if the House were to invite me to come, I would have gladly come and done that. I've said it numerous times. To subpoena the governor, you're not putting...the position of governor [in a spot] where at any time the Legislature can just come arbitrarily and just subpoena the governor and the Senate as well. I stand by that. This was something that I could've easily gone in, take the oath, and answer their questions. But they chose not to, they chose the other way, which was to subpoena the governor," Torres said.

However, Torres remains optimistic and says he will continue to represent those who believe in his leadership and those who voted him into his position.

As for the impeachment trial on May 13, Torres said he will gladly be there if his legal counsel advises him to.

"I'll leave it to my legal counsel. If my legal counsel suggests that I should be present then I will be," he said.

Saipan student shines in ASCE tilt

Several Trine University students, including one from Saipan, recently received awards from the American Society of Civil Engineers during a competition last April 7-9 that saw the participation of almost 200 civil engineering students from 11 colleges and universities.

Thaiphi Austria from Saipan, together with four other students, placed third place in the inaugural ASCE Indiana-Kentucky Student Symposium in a game of concrete cornhole. The other students on the team were Alex Layman of Ney, Ohio, Mason Fritch of Butler, Indiana, and Austin Zank.

The University of Notre Dame was the overall winner of the competition, which was hosted by Trine University in Indiana. Trine ranked second overall in the competition, topping Purdue University, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, the University of Evansville, and the University

of Kentucky.

Trine's student ASCE chapter has been attending ASCE symposia for over 20 years, but this was the first since the ASCE national organization realigned regions last year.

"Students had no idea what to anticipate because this was the first in-person symposium they had been able to attend since before COVID. However, we received a lot of positive responses. Students had a great time competing in contests and meeting new people," said Erin Haase, a Trine civil engineering major from Napoleon, Ohio, one of the event co-chairs.

Three Trine teams were able to take first-place awards in the ASCE Sustainable Solutions, Quiz Bowl, and Mechanically Stabilized Earth Wall portions of the event.

The symposium also included competitions in Steel Bridge Aesthetics, Technical Paper, Concrete Canoe and Surveying. (*Saipan Tribune*)

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Missing person: Juan K. Igisomar



The CNMI Department of Public Safety has launched a search for a 50-year-old man

identified as Juan K. Igisomar, who has been reported missing since Tuesday, April 26.

A DPS news yesterday said that a family member of the victim had told police that they have not seen their uncle for about two weeks. Based on the information gathered, Igisomar was last seen on Sunday, April 24, 2022, by the former IT&E building in Chalan Lau Lau.

The DPS statement said that Igisomar was last seen wearing a pair of khaki long pants, was shirtless, with gray colored hair and facial hair. Igisomar is approximately 5'8" and around 220 lbs. Family members also mentioned to police that Igisomar has a disability and is frequently seen walking along Middle Road in Chalan Lau Lau, with no shirt.

Igisomar's disappearance was reported to police last April 26, 2022, at about 2:24pm.

Separately, in a Facebook post Tuesday evening, it said that Igisomar has not returned to his home in Chalan Laulau that day.

In Ilourisa Kai Ka (Jezebel Kaipat Kapileo)'s initial Facebook post, which has almost 300 shares, she wrote "Good day, family & friends in the Marianas (Saipan to be specific). A family member of ours, John Kaipat Igisomar, (my uncle-mother's brother) has not been seen at his home in Chalan Laulau for awhile now. He is known to frequently get around the island by walking and is usually at Chalan Kiya, Beach Road, Garapan area and Middle Road. It is unusual for Uncle John to not return home after a day of being out. This is so unlike him, therefore the family and I are worried."

In a Facebook messenger interview, Ilourisa said, "We are doing our efforts to find him and DPS has been informed as well. We are hoping he is just at a friend's or relative's home. Any help is greatly appreciated."

Department of Public Lands Secretary and former senator Sixto Igisomar also said on his Facebook page, "Our Saipan family, I know John may have visited your homes, so please let us know if you've seen him at least the past days or over the weekend. We are having mixed days of when he was last seen, and so we are worried. Help, please,

and I hope he is just spending time with other family mem-

bers or friends. God bless and thank you."

DPS said that police have contacted several individuals

in the community in search of new information about Igisomar. The police are seeking the public's assistance in lo-

cating the missing individual. If you have information on any recent sightings or if anyone you know has any infor-

mation on the whereabouts of Igisomar, call 911, 1 (670) 234-0911 or 1 (670)-664-9001. (Leigh Gases)

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Ex-working student at UOG rises to the FSM presidency

If there is one piece of advice former Federated States of Micronesia president Emanuel "Manny" Mori could impart to the current students of his alma mater, it would be to take up the responsibility of serving the island they are from.

Mori, who served as FSM president from 2007 to 2015, said the knowledge he gained from his time as a student at the University of Guam helped boost his potential to give back to his community.

"UOG played a very critical role in the education and development of [the FSM]—from providing health services to creating more jobs," Mori said. "When people from our islands earn our college degree, wheth-

er from UOG or elsewhere, we have a responsibility to return and help build the nation that raised us."

This includes the environmental challenges islands face, which was a focal point during Mori's presidency.

Memories of student life

Mori attended UOG from 1969 to 1973 and graduated with a bachelor's in business management. He was active in campus activities and became the first student from the FSM to be elected to the Student Body Association. As senator, he was responsible for coordinating student life activities, from dances to movie nights to the

islands. The 22nd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature hereby requests the governor and secretary of Finance to implement a \$500 gas voucher program in the Commonwealth," the resolution states.

The resolution further states that the CNMI needs this assistance because of the many hardships the community has faced in the last few years.

"This legislative body recognizes that there are many hardships in which the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are faced with, and additionally, the citizens have endured an abundance of physical, emotional, and financial constraints as a result of the evolving global pandemic that is associated with the COVID-19 virus; and in addition to the various hardships imposed by economic turmoil caused by the global pandemic, the NMI residents face substantial increases in fuel prices," she said.

Joint Resolution 22-08 asks Torres and Finance Secretary David Atalig to provide financial assistance to meet the increased demand of fuel costs in the CNMI by implementing a \$500 fuel voucher program.

"The residents of the Commonwealth are also in need of government financial assistance to ease the burden of the high fuel costs on all three

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, local oil companies increased their prices earlier this month by 20 cents with regular fuel now \$5.96 for a gallon from \$5.76. Supreme fuel also went up from \$6.21 per gallon to \$6.41 while diesel is now \$6.78 from \$6.48.

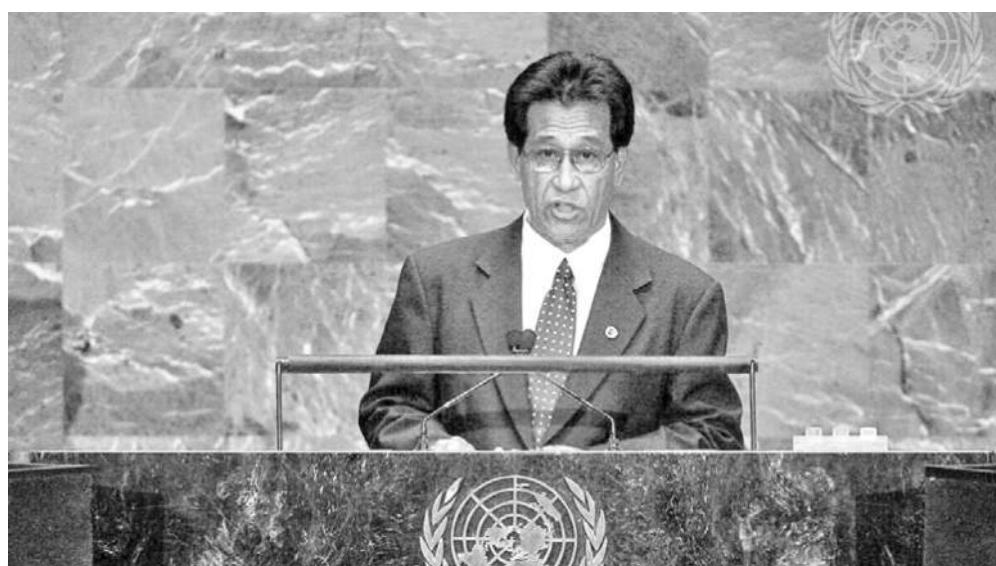
mation is outlined at <https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/comprehensive-assistance-for-family-caregivers/>

The program provides a variety of resources for caregivers, including training in caring for the veteran, travel costs, and a financial stipend. Some care caregivers may also be eligible for health insurance.

The easiest method to apply is online at: <https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/apply-for-caregiver-assistance-form-10-10cg/introduction>.

Veterans may contact their congressional office on Saipan, Tinian, or Rota for assistance. (PR)

Complete eligibility infor-



Emanuel Mori addresses the general debate of the 64th session of the U.N. General Assembly in September 2009.
MARCO CASTRO

annual UOG Charter Day.

"There might be different Charter Day activities now, but back then the students loved having picnics. We also had games like climbing coconut trees and husking coconuts. Most of the CHamorus on campus spoke their language, too," he said.

As a newcomer to Guam, Mori learned a lot about the island from friends he made while staying in the dormitories. Two friends in particular—longtime Guam educator Salvador Avilla and George Chargualaf—often took him out on adventures around the island to experience the community.

To help pay his tuition, he worked as a janitor in the dorms and advanced to supervisory status through the work-study program. The overall experience was a ton of fun, he said.

In academics, Mori said his education from Xavier High School in Chuuk prepared him for the first two years of college classes. The lessons started to become a little difficult afterwards, he admitted.

"I was struggling with fi-

nance and accounting because I couldn't understand it. It wasn't until I did an internship at a bank that it started to click for me," he said. "Public speaking was also a difficult one. I wasn't very good at it. But I enjoyed the class because it was great to see people make enormous improvements."

Pivotal career moment

Funnily enough, the two types of classes he struggled with ended up being the precursors for his decorated career in banking and politics.

Upon graduating from UOG, he went on to work for the banking industry for 25 years, starting in Guam and Saipan before ultimately moving back home to hold leadership positions in public and private banks.

Then came the call for public service. Mori found himself serving in FSM Congress, which later led him down the path to presidency.

Protecting natural resources, environment

As president, Mori brought

environmental concerns and impacts in the four island states to the forefront of global discussions.

During the 62nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2007, Mori pleaded with world leaders to take action in reversing the global trends of pollution to counter climate change. He reiterated this message at the 64th U.N. General Assembly in 2009, noting visible changes in sea-level rise and intensity of storms, and again in 2014 at the 69th General Assembly, when he advocated for immediate action on climate pollutants and voiced support for the U.N.'s proposed and now adopted global Sustainable Development Goals.

"Much of my discussions with the United Nations involved climate change and the concern for our environment," he said. "The impacts of sea-level rise were visible in some of our surrounding islands. They were eroding. Houses were disappearing."

His speeches focused on the impacts that Micronesia had already witnessed, such

ing what is right for our retirees and our government, we wouldn't have gotten to this point, where we can finally give our retirees their long-awaited bonus," he added.

According to the author of the bill, Rep. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota), he is grateful that a resolution was finally reached after over four months.

"I'm very grateful to the Senate for looking at the appropriations we've made, the allocations we've made, and their inputs as to where funds should be allocated from," he said.

Manglona added that the bill is a product of both the House and the Senate.

"It's been a long time coming, but I'm happy that this is a product that both the House and the Senate agreed upon and came to a consensus on. We thank the retirees for their

as damage to subsistence agriculture and fishing and threats to endemic marine and terrestrial species.

"The environmental concerns also affected our health," he said. "Non-communicable diseases were intensifying. We needed to consider how we can improve food security."

Another pressing issue he raised with the U.N. was the potential of oil seeping from World War II-era ships lying at the bottom of the Chuuk Lagoon. A portion of this ship graveyard is a popular diving destination for tourism, but Mori said he had expressed concern to both the United States and Japan governments about the possibility of oil pollution from cracked tanks over time. This is a matter that is still being looked at today, he said.

Mori's efforts to bring these issues to a bigger table has since advanced discussions on solutions to protect FSM's natural and cultural resources. His presidency was a catalyst to the FSM becoming the first country in Oceania to ratify the UNESCO Underwater Cultural Heritage Convention in 2018, which will help protect and manage the shipwreck sites as well as other underwater artifacts.

The FSM's signing of the convention has also contributed to Japan, the United States, and Australia starting to assist with oil pollution mitigation in FSM.

In 2009, UOG conferred unto Mori an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters Degree to recognize his work as a distinguished public servant in the FSM and Micronesian region. He gave the commencement speech that year, staying true to his cause as he challenged students to take on climate change as the priority of their generation. (UOG)

retirees. I also appreciate our Senate colleagues and the Department of Finance for at last bringing to the table the information that we've been asking for, for identifying alternate sources of funding. I do wish we could have come to this table together sooner, but it is what it is. I'm glad that we're all at the same table now," she said.

The other 14 members shared the same sentiment as Sablan and voted in favor of passing the bill.

Meanwhile, the Republican Party of the CNMI board directors and the retirees committee invited CNMI retirees to a meet-and-greet with Torres and lieutenant governor candidate Vinnie F. Sablan yesterday evening.

The Republican party senatorial, mayoral, and legislative candidates from all precincts were also present.

'Compassionate release request is not for convenience'

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Incarcerated pregnant inmate Vickilyn Manglona Teregeyo says she is not asking for compassionate release for her own convenience.

In a response submitted by her lawyer, Richard Miller, he said Tuesday that Teregeyo is making the request in the best interest of the daughter she is about to give birth to, as well as her own health and safety in the period immediately preceding and following labor.

Guam PTEC ramps up webinar schedule

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering two free webinars a week in May. If their usual Thursday webinar doesn't work for you, then join them on Tuesdays!

Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ May 3, 2022 and May 5, 2022 – How to Register in SAM - Vendors need an active SAM registration to participate in Federal contracting. On 4/4/22, the SAM registration process changed. The Guam PTAC will take you through the new registration process as well as the new annual renewal process.

■ May 10, 2022 and May 12, 2022 – Federal Contract Opportunities - SAM.gov is the portal for Federal Contract Opportunities. The Guam PTAC will show you how to use the website to ensure you do not miss any opportunities. Opportunity types, search fil-

"She is a mother who doesn't want to be forcibly separated from her new daughter within hours of giving birth. Reincarceration after her release from the hospital would entirely separate her and her daughter during the first crucial weeks of the newborn's life. That cannot be a healthy thing psychologically for the mother and developmentally for the child," said Miller.

The U.S. Attorney's Office, which had opposed Teregeyo's request for compassionate release and modification of

her sentence, had alleged that methamphetamine was found inside Teregeyo's jail cell on March 27, 2022. Miller asks that the government present "this evidence to the defense as soon as possible."

In relation to Teregeyo's 2018 case in Guam, Millers says that "the circumstances today are markedly different.

...There, Vickilyn was granted pretrial release without restrictive conditions." Now however, Teregeyo is already sentenced.

Miller added that if the U.S. District Court for the NMI releases her from the Depart-

ment of Corrections, "she will go straight into home detention with electronic home monitoring. Her movements will be closely monitored within a house that the Probation Office has already inspected, and her access to others will be severely

restricted. If Vickilyn were in [Federal] Bureau of Prisons custody, she would have recourse to programs that would allow her and the baby to be in contact. Instead she's caught in a Catch-22, where neither the Bureau nor the U.S. Marshal nor DOC has authority to assist. The extent to which she falls

through the cracks of the system were not apparent at the time she was sentenced last month. They are woefully visible now."

Yesterday, April 27, Wednesday, was the date set for Teregeyo's hearing, but is now rescheduled to Friday, May 6, at 9am in the U.S. District Court of the NMI.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Monday, May 02, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., at the Tinian Public Library, San Jose Village, Tinian. We welcome the Public to attend.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of the Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes
 - April 08, 2022 (Regular Meeting)
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS*
- III. TREASURE'S REPORT
 - A. TMT
 - B. SOF
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Annual Report
 - B. STATUS: Office Space
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. INQUIRY: TMS Supervisor
 - V. MISCELLANEOUS
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

/S/Rodney S. Caballes
Chairman

We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.
*Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

To register, visit: <https://www.guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. (PR)

DCCA-DYS PANDEMIC EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUNDS (DCCA - DYS PEAF) PROGRAM

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PURPOSE: To distribute cash assistance benefit to income-eligible families for the purpose of addressing Non-Recurrent, Short Term (NSRT) needs resulting from the COVID pandemic.

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- Rota (70 Eligible Families)

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ELIGIBILITY: Listed on the application

APPLICATION:

Can be picked up from any of the following locations beginning **April 25, 2022**:
Kagman Community Center; Tanapag Youth Center; Division of Youth Services-Admin. Office in Capitol Hill; Rota DYS Office, Rota Sinapalo Youth Center or the Tinian DYS Office

Application Deadline: Application period will remain open from **April 25th** until August 31, 2022 or as soon as funds are depleted, whichever comes first. (All submissions will be date and time stamped)

Application Submission: Completed applications and supporting documents can be dropped off at any of the locations indicated above or via email through contacts below. Please note that any incomplete package will not be entertained.

FOR INQUIRIES:

SAIPAN CONTACT(s):

Zina C. Nekaihes, 670-237-1000, via email at znekaifes@dys.gov.mp
Rowena R. Relado, 670-237-1002, via email at rrelado@dys.gov.mp

TINIAN CONTACT(s):

Cindy T. Alo, 670-433-9272 via email at calo@dys.gov.mp
Augusta B. Famaw, 670-433-9272, via email at afamaw@dys.gov.mp

ROTA CONTACT(s):

Mildred Sikebert, 670-532-9393, via email at msikebert@dys.gov.mp
Quindyl Maratita, 670-532-9393, via email at qmaratita@dys.gov.mp

/s/ Vivian T. Sablan
DYS Administrator

/s/ Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
DCCA Secretary

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Representing the People of the Northern Mariana Islands

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Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

RODRIGO : FCD-DI
R. GATELA : CIVIL ACTION
Petitioner : NO. 21-0314-FCD
-vs-
PETRONILA R. : SUMMONS TO
GATELA : ANSWER COMPLAINT
Respondent : FOR DIVORCE

TO: PETRONILA R. GATELA
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to RODRIGO R. GATELA whose address is P.O. Box 505072 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 23rd day of July, 2021

/s/
CLERK OF COURT

Jaynallyn Taitano and Joseph Fejeran
P.O. Box 50235
Saipan, MP 96950
484-9479/789-8246

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter of :
the Petition for the :
Appointment :
of General :
Guardianship for: FCD-GU
M. T. N.M.T.B., D.T.B. : CIVIL ACTION
Minor Children : NO. 22-0082
By: : NOTICE OF
HEARING :
Jaynallyn Taitano :
Joseph Anthony :
Taitano Fejeran :
Petitioners :

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 13, 2022, at 9:00a.m. in Courtroom 217A before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 25th day of February, 2022.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-22-014

SEWER MAIN REPLACEMENT PHASE II (ROYAL PALM AVENUE AND GINGER AVENUE – GARAPAN)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Sewer Main Replacement Phase II (Royal Palm Avenue and Ginger Avenue – Garapan) in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of but not limited to the installation of gravity sewer main, new sewer manholes, new service laterals, connection to existing service laterals, and the abandonment of existing sewerline, removal and disposal of existing sewer manholes.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **May 11, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-22-014, Sewer Main Replacement Phase II (Royal Palm Avenue and Ginger Avenue – Garapan)**” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 1, 2022**, at which time they will be opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding if the bid requirements in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one Hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC's Acting Chief Engineer via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Dennis Formalejo, CUC's Engineer via email at dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES CUC-RAESP-22-024

INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed Architectural & Engineering Services Proposal from qualified firms to update the 2016 CUC Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), which identified a long-range plan for the most cost-effective mix of energy resources, both supply-side and demand-side management (DSM) and included a review of commercially available base load and renewable energy alternatives. The updated Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) will include optimizing this power supply portfolio to minimize costs while maximizing sustainability and resiliency while including the lasted in renewable, DSM, and operating technologies.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for the project award from Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) and HUD.

The RAESP package may be obtained via email between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$300.00 for one RFP package set. To register for the RAESP, please contact Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal; and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in a separately sealed envelope marked “**CUC-RAESP-22-024, Integrated Resource Plan**” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 24, 2022**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RAESP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This RAESP does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on May 10, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Procurement Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Anne Crochet, CUC Power Division Chief Engineer via email address anne.crochet@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Tina, Leila thank ‘superstar’ supporters

Rep. Christina “Tina” Sablan (D-Saipan) and Rep. Leila Fleming Staffler (D-Saipan), who are running for governor and lieutenant governor under the Democratic Party banner this November, want to thank the scores of donors, supporters and volunteers who made recent campaign events a success. The two called the two back-to-back events “inspiring and humbling.”

“These events don't just happen on their own. A lot of experience, dedication and hard work came together to make our ‘Livestock Fundraiser’ and the Kababayan gathering so successful,” said Sablan. “There are so many people to thank, starting with Lawrence Camacho, who was chairman of the Livestock Fundraiser.”

Staffler noted that others who donated prizes of live animals for the raffle included her uncle, Thomas Fleming from Tinian; Manuela Manlulu, her aunt; Franklin Babauta, Martin Castro, Joseph Roberto; Danny Quitugua; and Ben Duenas. She also thanked musicians Larry and Kui Lee.

“They're all superstars in our view,” said Sablan.



Sablan



Staffler

families, were also heroes of the day, added Staffler.

Both candidates, who serve together in the Commonwealth House of Representatives, also thanked the organizers and supporters of the Kababayan event. “The organizers, Regina Duenas and Brando De Belen, welcomed us with open arms, and we had a chance to meet and speak personally with the many people who were there in attendance,” said sablan.

The support they received will help their campaign reach even more people in the coming weeks, Staffler said. (PR)

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 | Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: <http://www.nmhcgov.net>

PUBLIC NOTICE

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233-9448
233-9449
233-9450
Fax: (670) 234-9451

AMENDED NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2022

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,514,000.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$970,416.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$463,940.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and \$79,644.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2022.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning February 03, 2022

You may also obtain the application online at www.nmhcgov.net in the section titled “Public Notice/Announcement” subsection “Community Planning Development”

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by **May 04, 2022, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after May 04, 2022, will not be accepted.**

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

**March 14, 2022, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Saipan
March 15, 2022, March 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian
March 17, 2022, March 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian
March 16, 2022, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota
March 21, 2022, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota**

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room in Tatachog.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner at 234-6866 or 234-9447.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

NMC adds more NCLEX passers

Northern Marianas College nursing program alumni Merly-Ann Fernandez and Carl Pagcaliwagan recently joined the list of students who have passed the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses or NCLEX-RN. Fernandez and Pagcaliwagan graduated from NMC in 2021.

The NCLEX-RN exam is the exam nursing graduates in the CNMI have to pass in order to be able to practice nursing. The exam tests the knowledge, skills, and abilities of nursing graduates in order to certify that they are equipped with the capability to apply entry level nursing practices correctly.

"It's great to see more and more NMC nursing graduates pass the challenging NCLEX-RN," NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero said. "I congratulate Merly-Ann and Carl on this accomplishment."

NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa Aldan also congratulated the two on their achievements.

"Merly-Ann and Carl have bright futures in the nursing field and we expect to see great things from them as their educational and professional journeys continue," Aldan said.

Fernandez said that one contributing factor to her passing the test was being able to work at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s surgical ward as a graduate nurse.

"I was able to experience hands-on nursing care under the supervision of the charge nurse," Fernandez said. "This experience allowed me to utilize my critical thinking and nursing instincts."

Her advice for students planning to take the NCLEX is to study any time you can, as well as use all the available resources.

Pagcaliwagan said that he decided to become a nurse because it was one of the science-based courses available on-island that piqued his interest.

"Over time as I got through my general courses, the topics started narrowing down to more science specific classes," Pagcaliwagan said. "Noticing how I enjoyed those classes, and the eventual topics of the Nursing Program itself, I felt like Nursing was something I could see myself doing."

For students who plan to take NCLEX, Pagcaliwagan says to take steps to prevent mental burnout.

"Create a routine that works for you and keep it consistent," Pagcaliwagan said. "Take care of yourself first mentally and physically. Don't



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Northern Marianas College nursing program alumni Merly-Ann Fernandez.

feel guilty about break days, we all need time off in order for our brains to process the information."

For more information about NMC's nursing program, email Aldan at rosa.aladan@marianas.edu or call 237-6744. (NMC)

TAE HO KO
287-4305

Pro Se,
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

Petitioner	: FCD-CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0089
Respondent	: ORDER SHORTENING TIME AND NOTICE OF HEARING

GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, It is hereby ordered that the time for notice of hearing for Petitioner(s) petition be shortened and that the hearing be set on May 9, 2022 at 9:00a.m. in Courtroom 217A.

Dated this 17th day of March, 2022.

/s/ Judge



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres and the Honorable Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Department of Public Works (DPW) would like to notify the general public of the 4-year Federal Aid Highway Program's Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) Amendment 4.

A copy of the plan can be obtained at the DPW Technical Services Highway Section for review and comments. Written comments must be submitted directly to DPW TSD Highway Branch, 2nd Flr. Suite 211 at the Oleai Joeten Commercial Center on Beach Road or via email to: lms.dpwtsd@gmail.com or ldcls.dpw@gmail.com no later than May 19, 2022 at 2:00 pm.

Should you have any questions regarding the TTIP, you may contact Ms. Lorraine Villagomez, Highway Administrator or Ms. Lauren Sanchez, Federal Program Coordinator of the Department of Public Works Technical Services Division-Highway Section at (670) 234-9828.

The following are listed in the TTIP FY20-23 Amendment 4:

I. CNMI DEPARTMENT OF Public Works Technical Services Division HIGHWAY BRANCH 4-YEAR Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan: PROJECTS FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

AMENDMENT 4									
DISTRICT	VILLAGE	ROUTE NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF WORK	FY2020 FEDERAL	FY2021 FEDERAL	FY2022 FEDERAL	FY2023 FEDERAL	
ALL	ALL	FY	Highway Planning, Technology Transfer & Training Activities Program-	Admin	\$975,986.00	\$1,417,604.20	\$1,928,356.62	\$1,644,486.00	
ALL	ALL	OJTSS	On The Job Training Support Service	Admin	\$37,500.00	\$37,500.00	\$37,500.00	\$37,500.00	
ALL	ALL	NSTI	National Summer Transportation Institute	Admin	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	
I	Songsong	10	Route 10 Drainage upgrade from Pinatang Park to CUC Power Plant - Phase II	PE - Design Construction				\$1,000,000.00	
I	Dugi	103	Route 103 - Roadway Improvements	PE - Design Construction CM		\$850,000.00		\$932,630.00	
II	San Jose	202	Route 202 - Hazard Elimination	PE - Design Construction	\$500,000.00				
II	San Jose	205	Route 205	PE - Design Construction	\$350,000.00			\$180,000.00	
III	Chalan Laulau - Garapan	30	Route 30 - Chalan Pale Arnold Hazard Elimination	PE ROW Construction CM				\$880,000.00	
	Chalan Laulau - Garapan	30	Route 30 - Installation of Traffic Light System	PE - Design Construction CM	\$2,500,000.00				
III	As Perdido	32	As Perdido Road Safety Improvements	PE - Design Construction CM				\$200,000.00	
III	Chalan Piao-Sa Jose	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 2	PE - Design Construction CM	\$6,920,000.00	\$1,090,000.00			
III	Christo Rai - Micro Beach	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 4 - Roundabout	PE - Design Construction CM				\$1,000,000.00	
III	Dandan	35	Route 35 - Airport Road Improvement	PE - Design Construction CM - DPW	\$2,500,000.00			\$200,000.00	
III	Obyan	302/304	Naftan Road and Flametree Road Improvements	Env. Update Construction CM	\$20,000.00	\$5,500,000.00			
III	Capitol Hill	310	Route 310 Tapochao Road and drainage Improvements	PE Design Construction CM	\$500,000.00		\$124,000.00		
III	Gualo Rai	317	Route 317 - Gualo Rai Road and Drainage Improvements	PE Design Construction CM				\$500,000.00	
	Island-Wide		Island-Wide Hazard Elimination, Saipan	Construction			\$681,907.77		
		31/307	Hazard Elimination-Intersection of Chalan Msgr. Guerrero and Chalan Tun Antonio Apa	Construction		\$200,000.00	\$368,092.30		
		34	Kagman Traffic Road Repair	Construction			\$250,000.00		
TOTAL OBLIGATION					\$4,053,486.00	\$18,745,104.20	\$5,349,856.69	\$8,394,616.00	
Estimated Carry Over Prior Fiscal Year TOTAL:					\$603,225.00	\$20,813,805.99	\$6,112,001.79	\$5,275,445.10	
FMIS Unobligated Funds (Closed-Out Projects/De-obligated Funds)					\$20,220,766.99	\$ -	\$470,000.00	\$ -	
OJTSS/NSTI					\$57,500.00	\$57,500.00	\$57,500.00	\$57,500.00	
Annual Allocation:									
TOTAL ALLOCATION (not including Other Funds)					\$3,985,800.00	\$3,985,800.00	\$3,985,800.00	\$3,985,800.00	
TOTAL OBLIGATION (not including other funds)					\$24,867,291.99	\$24,857,105.99	\$10,625,301.79	\$9,318,745.10	
FISCAL ALLOCATION TO HQ (Not including Other Funds)					\$4,053,486.00	\$18,745,104.20	\$5,349,856.69	\$8,394,616.00	
TOTAL ALLOCATION - other (ER, Special Funds, etc.)					\$20,813,805.99	\$6,112,001.79	\$5,275,445.10	\$924,129.10	

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Don't wait to seek COVID medications

Widely available." That's how Dr. Ruth Lynfield, Minnesota's respected state epidemiologist, sums up the current supply of antiviral treatments—in other words, pills or outpatient therapies prescribed soon after a positive test for those at risk for severe COVID-19.

Good news has too often been a rare commodity during this long, exhausting pandemic. But one medication in particular—dubbed Paxlovid—delivers a welcome double shot of that. It's plentiful and potent, being close to 90% effective against hospitalization and death when taken during a limited window of time.

But Paxlovid and other antivirals don't do anyone any good if they're gathering dust on a clinic or pharmacy shelf. While these may have been in short supply temporarily after they were cleared for use in the United States—Paxlovid's emergency authorization for those ages 12 and up came in December, for example—there's now a healthy inventory of them here and elsewhere.

Other treatments include remdesivir, bebtelovimab and molnupiravir. The first two are given as outpatient infusions; the last is taken by mouth. The age range and other eligibility criteria vary from treatment to treatment. The issue now is ensuring that Minnesotans are not only aware of these options, but understand who should use them and when.

The list of conditions that elevate risk for severe COVID-19 is likely more expansive than many realize. It includes older adults, particularly those 65 and over. Also on the list: Type 1 and 2 diabetes, chronic lung conditions such as asthma, as well as heart, liver and kidney disease. Mood disorders, including depression and schizophrenia spectrum disorders, are risk factors as well. A full list is available from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at tinyurl.com/Risk042522, but when in doubt ask a doctor or pharmacist.

Antivirals need to be given as soon as possible, which is why prompt COVID-19 testing remains critical. These treatments prevent people from becoming severely ill and needing hospitalization. Thus, patients need to take them before that level of care is required. For example, Paxlovid must be prescribed for use "within 5 days of symptom onset," according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

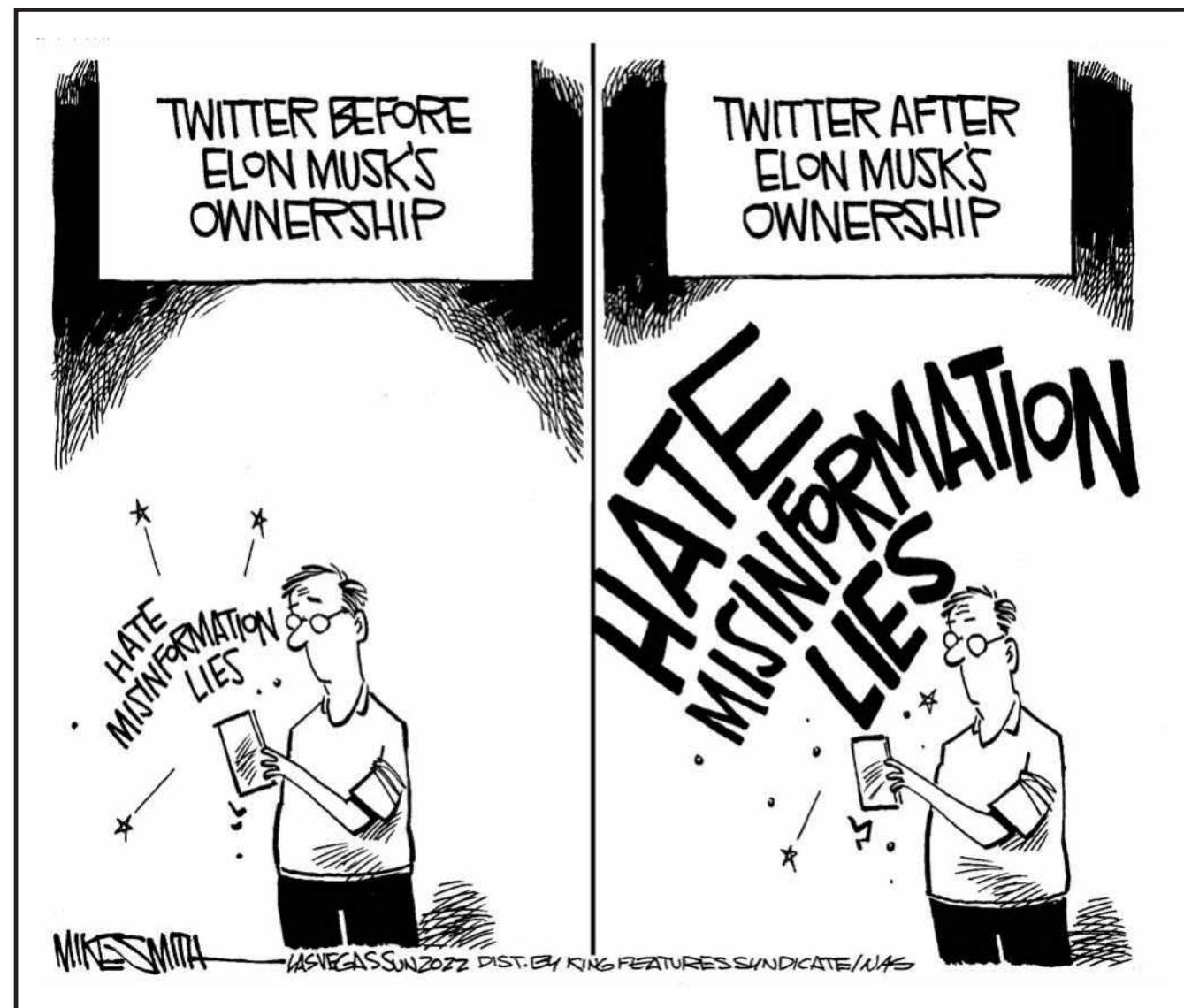
There's urgency to understanding all this. On Friday, the Star Tribune reported that COVID-19 cases have exceeded the state's high-risk threshold again, even with many infections likely going unreported due to the use of at-home rapid tests.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has excellent online resources (tinyurl.com/MNHealthCovidmeds) for those wanting more information about antiviral treatments and where to find them.

Additional points that are helpful to understand:

Vaccinated people with breakthrough COVID-19 infections are eligible for antiviral treatments, providing they have risk factors and meet other prescribing guidelines. So-

See COVID on Next Page



Russia is causing bloodshed in Myanmar, too

My heart breaks as I watch Russian planes bombing civilian homes, displacing millions of refugees and committing crimes against humanity in Ukraine. Four thousand miles away from Ukraine, in my home country of Myanmar (also known as Burma), Russia has been complicit for decades in the violence of the Burmese military against its own citizens.

The military's violent campaign reached new levels in February 2021, when it staged a bloody attempted coup against the democratically elected government. Since then, the Myanmar military—equipped with deadly weapons from Russia—has tortured and killed thousands of civilians, especially the country's ethnic and religious minorities. One of the more shocking cases occurred on Christmas Eve, when more than 35 ethnic Karen civilians were burned alive by the military.

These horrific events are not unprecedented. My aunt and uncle were among the Burmese military's victims in the late 1970s. My aunt was gang-raped and tortured in front of my uncle. My uncle's skin was sliced and rubbed with salt and chili. I was forced to leave my beautiful village to escape the state-sponsored violence on January 28, 1995. That was the last time I saw my home.

Sadly, the military has faced no significant consequences for its crimes, which continue to this day, including genocide against the Rohingya people and other ethnic and religious minorities. Just as the failure to stand up to Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Crimea helped lead to the crisis in Ukraine, the failure to hold the military in Myanmar accountable has emboldened it to escalate violence against the nation's people.



STR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES/TNS
Military hardware is displayed during a parade to celebrate Myanmar's 77th Armed Forces Day in Naypyidaw, on March 27, 2022.

recently documented the wide range of weapons Russia is selling to the military, including a shipload of military vehicles in January and two more SU-30 fighter jets in March. These are the same fighter jets Russia is using in Ukraine.

In exchange, the State Administration Council set up by the



By MYRA DAHGAYPAW
Progressive Perspectives

Myra Dahgipayaw is a human rights activist, a former internally displaced person and refugee from Karen State in eastern Myanmar, and the senior partnership officer for International Justice and Accountability at the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. This column was produced for Progressive Perspectives, which is run by The Progressive magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service.

Since the coup, the Myanmar military has been conducting airstrikes almost every day, especially at night when people are sleeping, to maximize the number of deaths and injuries. Nearly 900,000 people have been forced from their homes. The military has deliberately targeted health care facilities and places where people have fled to for protection. And it is using Russian weapons to do it.

Thomas Andrews, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, recently documented the wide range of weapons Russia is selling to the military, including a shipload of military vehicles in January and two more SU-30 fighter jets in March. These are the same fighter jets Russia is using in Ukraine.

See RUSSIA on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The new American way of getting everything wrong

Compassion is so, so important if civilization is to rise to the heights most of us wish for, but compassion without wisdom can produce Karl Marx communism. "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs," the historical figure said by way of summation in 1875, and what we actually have seen in this fraudulent, dehumanizing economic system is "from each according to tyrannical orders and to each according to whether there is any food available."

If that's an understatement, not taking account of millions of deaths, I apologize, but many recent, progressive, mostly Democratic miscalculations have likewise done less to produce a brave, new world than to pulverize the innocent. Consider free, often unneeded, \$1,400 stimulus checks passed out nationally to help individuals and to excite a COVID-recovering economy when the chief consequence instead has been to increase demand when supply is diminished. Even President Joe Biden has agreed that this particular utopian dream evolved into an inflationary nightmare.

RUSSIA

From Page 8

military in Myanmar is one of the few entities around the world to endorse Putin's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has taken a historic step in March by officially declaring that the Myanmar military has committed acts of genocide against the Rohingya people. But this long overdue decision did not include any practical action in response to this genocide.

The U.S. government must take tangible action to hold the military in Myanmar accountable. Passing the BURMA Act, introduced in Congress last year, would ensure accountability for the junta and justice for its victims, as well as provide direct support to the nation's people. The Biden administration must also support The Gambia's case before the International Court of Justice, arguing that Myanmar violated the Genocide Convention.

The global community has taken swift action to sanction Putin and the cronies who support him, showing what can be done when political will is united against injustice. Just a fraction of the action taken against Russia and in support of Ukraine would be transformational in our struggle for democracy and human rights in Myanmar, and at much less economic cost to the United States.

I have lost half of my immediate family members to the military in Myanmar. President Joe Biden and the U.S. Congress can do much more to stop the flow of money and arms to the military in Myanmar. Every day that they fail to act, more mothers and fathers, more sisters and brothers will die at the hands of the military.

COVID

From Page 8

cial media has sowed confusion about this.

There are multiple pathways to access antiviral treatments. Some pharmacies with on-site urgent care clinics have joined the federal "Test to Treat" program, which provides testing and prescriptions for antiviral pills. But that is not the only way to access antivirals. Regular medical providers can also prescribe them and help find a pharmacy to fill the prescription if it's not in stock locally.

A mild case of COVID-19 can still turn severe. If you're at elevated risk, seek out antivirals even if you don't feel that sick initially.

A "key message" right now is having a plan in place in case you're infected, said Dr. Sarah Lim, an MDH medical specialist. Understand if you're at high risk, and then know what to do if symptoms develop, she said, because the timeframe for antivirals to work is so tight.

The pandemic continues to wax and wane. Vaccines remain the most powerful weapon against the virus, but medicine's war chest against it has expanded and is well-stocked. Make good use of it or help someone else do so.

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, as a living example of intellectual imbalance, profound falls and long-term governmental limping, wants 16-year-olds to be allowed to vote nationally, maybe an ego boost for the unqualified as well as an electoral boost for leftists. Imagination invites all kinds of possibilities, such as more support for a nationally mandated \$15-an-hour minimum wage helping teenagers that would likely result in 1 million people losing their jobs, for starters. Each business is different (some with great profits, some with next to no profits), just as each state is its own thing (some would suffer under such a law) and workers come from different circumstances (some the second or third wage earner in a household and some maybe likely to get a quick promotion).

Transgender and gay folks are more and more accepted in modern society, and that's a good: less bullying, less cruelty, more open-minded courtesy. But biological men are superior athletes on average to biological women, and it is not OK when one is especially talented and, as a transgender woman, gets in contests with fiercely competitive, hard-working, devoted biological women and cheats them out of victories they deserve. It is putting self before fair play and showing contempt for the sex with which the person now identifies.

One of the most outlandish mishaps during our engagement with the pandemic was keeping schools closed for too long. The point was to save students from COVID infection when we knew that was not much of a threat especially for the younger students and that they would also likely be quick to recover. Experts say they could suffer psychologically and intellectually for years, maybe for the rest of their lives. Thanks, teachers unions.

Climate change is a real problem that we are going to be less

April is National Poetry Month

The following was in the *Saipan Tribune* on April 30, 2018. It seems I was focused on William Shakespeare and obsessed with POTUS 45 in the last week of that month. Previously published in the *Saipan Tribune*: On April 23 of that year, W.S. Sonnet 116, my parody, I Don't Accept Marriage of Truth; W.S. Sonnet 130, my parody, My Tax Returns Will Never See. On April 24 there was 'A trilogy of original Trump Twitter Tales: 1. Deconstructing Drumpf's Delusions of Grandeur, 2. Trump Tweet Tales, Some Tomes and Poems, 3. Congressional Movement or Lack Thereof. On April 26, a trilogy and an acrostic: 1. Impeachment or Resignation 2. Put in Trust...Trump a Bust!, 3. The Odium of Trump at the Podium (more loathing, lies, and insults to despise); and 4. an acrostic for U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren who told U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell when he said "Yield the floor": "I have no intention of yielding," McConnell said (and my title): Nevertheless She Persisted. Finally I ended the month on April 30 with: Double Vision Derision, Shakespeare's original Sonnet 29 and two parodies of it:

Sonnet 29 by William Shakespeare

When in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes
I all alone beweep my outcast state
And trouble deaf heav'n with my bootless cries,
And look upon myself, and curse my fate,
Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,
Featured like him with friends possessed,
Desiring this man's art, and that man's scope,
With what I most enjoy contented least;
Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising,
Haply I think on thee, and then my state,
Like to the lark at break of day arising
From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate.
For thy sweet love remembered such wealth brings
That then I scorn to change my state with kings.

When in Disgrace With Fake News...

(A parody of W. Shakespeare's Sonnet 29)

When in disgrace with fake news and lying media's eyes
I throw childish temper tantrums about my outcast state

By JAY AMBROSE

Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.



capable of handling because of disruption of our fossil fuel production here at home. That handy source will be needed to enable us to have the money necessary for improved technology and decent living conditions with less dependence on untrustworthy international connivers taking advantage of our stupidities.

We ought to keep in mind that we were not affording adequate medical care for veterans until we started having private hospitals and health care providers do more. Socialist Sen. Bernie Sanders was initially furious.

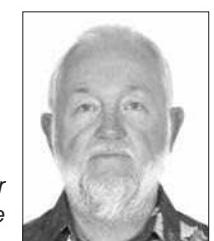
The Biden administration plans to reduce the overweight student loan burden from imprudent students who knew what they were doing when they took the money to often attend schools with unbelievably high tuition as well as nice reputations. Those paying them off through taxes will include responsible students who did not receive loans and went to less expensive, less prestigious schools that they could afford if they also worked at tough jobs at the same time. It can be more complicated than that, but it's not right.

The denied progressive formula: From each according to politics and ideological misconceptions, and to each according to what's dishonorable.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



I grow bald and round in size and tell many more lies
too blind with presidential power to ascertain my fate.
Wishing only for more golf games and riches I hope
to use my smarts, the 'stable genius' that only I possess
conspiring with V. Putin and Russian oligarchs scope
what I enjoy most is being out on my own golf course.
Despite my being so smart there are some still despising
instinctively I think of me and my Secretary of State
with the price of Middle East oil per barrel then rising
from Saudi Arabia up to the Northern Arctic Gates
liquid largesse for me increasing my wealth and bling
that then I know I am "believe me" an American king.

My Presidency in Disgrace

(A parody of W. Shakespeare's Sonnet 29)

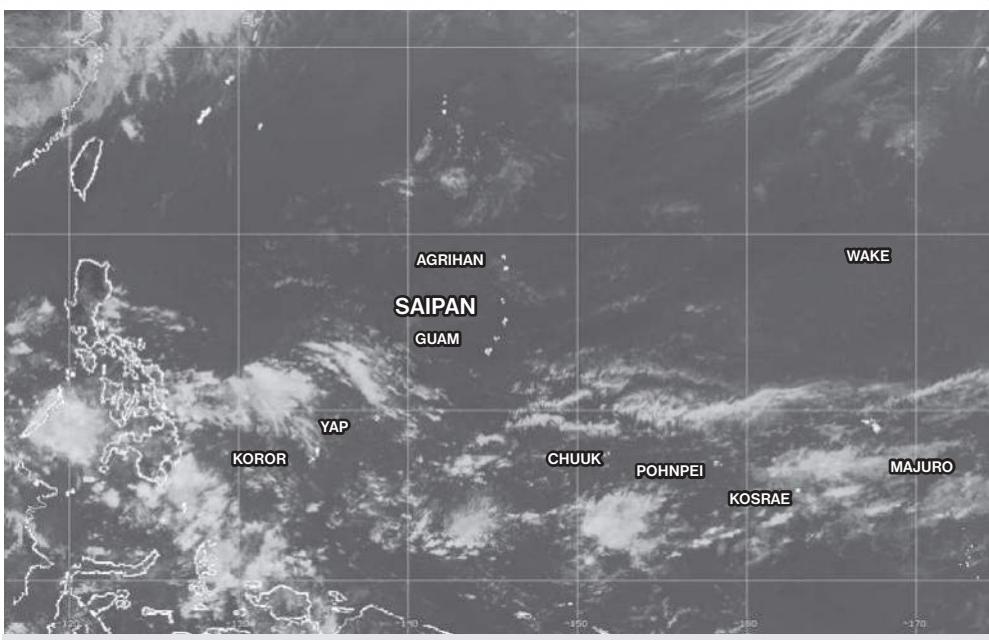
My presidency in disgrace in the nation's eyes
I all alone tweet my confused state
and trouble the generals with baby boy cries
so sad I'm not Making America Great.
Wish I was like that man from a place called Hope
articulate like him, a policy wonk and computer nerd
desirous of his ability to speak and cope
instead I belittle and insult others with every word.
Yet in these thoughts filled with self loathing
I think of money and how much I'm making
and obstinately fold my arms inside my clothing
continuing bombastic demagoguery and faking.
For bling and bucks remembered on this occasion
dispel thoughts of going to prison for tax evasion.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly sunny, with isolated showers. East wind 14 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy, with isolated showers.	Mostly sunny, with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy, with isolated showers.	Mostly sunny.
87°	76°	87°	76°	87°
76°	88°	76°	88°	76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:27 AM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly sunny skies and isolated to widely scattered showers moving through the Marianas Waters, with the "best" concentration affecting Guam and Rota. The buoys reveal combined seas of 6 to 9 feet. The water temperature at the Ritidian buoy is 83 degrees, and at Ipan 84 degrees respectively.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors



Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible.

When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>

Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 sec-

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy/Wind	30 / 26 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	28 / 24 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 27 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	05:55 AM	18:33 PM
Friday	05:54 AM	18:34 PM
Saturday	05:54 AM	18:34 PM
Sunday	06:12 AM	18:29 PM
Monday	06:12 AM	18:29 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	04:08	16:25 PM	-
Friday	04:45	17:15 PM	-
Saturday	05:22	18:05 PM	-
Sunday	06:09	18:31 PM	-
Monday	06:47	19:22 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	19 / 12 °F
Beijing	AM Light Rain	15 / 5 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	29 / 25 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	28 / 23 °F
London	Mostly Cloudy	16 / 6 °F
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	20 / 11 °F
Manila	Cloudy	34 / 27 °F
Melbourne	Cloudy	22 / 17 °F
Miami	PM Showers	27 / 23 °F
New York	Sunny	14 / 5 °F
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	25 / 16 °F
Paris	Mostly Sunny	23 / 10 °F
Busan	Mostly Sunny	19 / 12 °F
Rome	Sunny	25 / 10 °F
Salem	Sunny	25 / 10 °F
San Francisco	Sunny/Wind	16 / 10 °F
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	23 / 9 °F
Tokyo	Cloudy	25 / 14 °F
Washington, DC	Sunny	14 / 2 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
05:44 AM	High Tide	1.96
12:01 PM	Low Tide	0.77
5:29 PM	High Tide	1.70
11:48 PM	Low Tide	0.42

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 28, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117 6:40AM 7:20AM 1, 3, 5				UA116 5:00AM 5:45AM 1, 3, 5			
UA117 9:50AM 10:35AM 2, 4, 6, 7				UA116 8:00AM 8:45AM 6, 7			
UA174 8:00AM 8:45AM 2, 4				UA174 8:00AM 8:45AM 2, 4			
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111 6:35AM 8:35AM 1, 3, 5, 6, 7				R110 10:35PM 4:35AM+1 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			
UA193 7:05PM 10:55PM 5 via Palau				UA184 10:25PM 4:20AM+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7			
UA1							

Atkins Kroll acquires Avis, Budget, Payless Rent a Car

TAMUNING, Guam—Atkins Kroll Inc., an Inchcape Company, announced yesterday its acquisition of Avis Rent a Car, Budget Rent a Car, and Payless Rent a Car across six islands in Micronesia from Premiere Alliance Corp. This acquisition is part of Atkins Kroll's Accelerate Strategy designed to maximize significant opportunities as the industry navigates unique changes. This is the company's second recent acquisition since purchasing the commercial vehicle and heavy equipment dealership Morrico Equipment in December 2021.

"The acquisition of these three iconic rental car brands is a milestone for Atkins Kroll as it marks a major step forward in our strategy by considerably strengthening our position in the region, expanding our car rental footprint and running multi-branded companies will help to enhance the underlying value of Atkins Kroll, as well as providing exciting oppor-

tunities for our partners and employees," said Alex Hammett, Inchcape managing director for Asia Developing Markets.

Premiere Alliance Corp. has multiple Avis, Budget, and Payless Rent a Car locations in Micronesia including Guam, Saipan, Tinian, Rota, Pohnpei, and the Republic of Palau, all of which include airport kiosks.

"Premiere Alliance Corp. has served our islands for 25 years," said company president Cathy Mateo. "I am very thankful to our employees who were integral to the success of our operations. I am also grateful to the many customers we've had the privilege to serve. Atkins Kroll is a great organization, and I am confident they'll take great care of our people and the brands."

Atkins Kroll is a leading distributor of vehicles in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Micronesia. Established in 1914, Atkins



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Avis Budget Group senior licensee manager, Asia & Middle East James Richmond; Premiere Alliance Corp. president Cathy Mateo; and Inchcape managing director for Asia Developing Markets Alex Hammett gather for a photo outside the Avis, Budget, and Payless location in Tumon, Guam.

Kroll is Guam's oldest corporation and represents Toyota, Lexus, BMW, Chevrolet, Toyota Rent A Car, ACE Rent a Car, and AC Delco brands. In December 2021 At-

kins Kroll acquired Morrico Equipment, one of Guam's largest heavy equipment dealerships representing Freightliner, Mercedes Benz, Hyundai Construction Equip-

ment, Kohler Power Systems, Rosenbauer Fire Trucks and Thomas Built School Buses. Morrico Equipment operates new and used heavy equipment sales, rental, parts,

diesel fuel delivery, Trashco Guam, and specialized diesel repair service to Guam, the CNMI, Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau. (AK)

Tinian's 3-day San Jose Fiesta begins tomorrow

TINIAN—Preparations for the 2022 Tinian San Jose Fiesta are underway, marking the 66th anniversary in celebration of Tinian's patron saint, San Jose the Worker. Tinian & Aguiguan Mayor Edwin P. Aldan and the collective Tinian leadership welcome everyone in the Marianas to join this fun-filled three-day weekend event from Friday, April 29, to Sunday, May 1, at the Tinian Fiesta Grounds.

Star Marianas Air, Inc. will be extending its flight schedules beginning Friday, April 29 to Saturday, April 30. Each night during this promotional period, there will be flights from Saipan to Tinian from 8am to 9:30pm and flights from Tinian to Saipan will operate from 8:30am until 9:30pm.

The Tinian Mayor's Office will be extending the camping areas along the coastline nearest to the Fiesta Grounds, including Jones Beach, Taga Beach, and Tachogna Beach, to be available to visitors for camping. Reservations to use any of the pavilions during the fiesta weekend should be made via email at frontoffice.emot@gmail.com in advance.

Ten of the island's best local vendors will dish out traditional cuisine and unique street food. Serving up the best of island barbecue will be Chana's Kitchen, Bento Box, Queen's Restobar, and RB5. Got a sweet tooth? Check out Sweeties Corner for an assortment of desserts and a wide variety of shave ice—perfect on a hot day! Expand your

palate when choosing a menu from JC Cafe.

Experience the first-ever Grease Pig and Grease Pole Competition, where individuals go head-to-head to demonstrate strength and agility. Hop on your boat and compete in the annual San Jose Fiesta Fishing Derby as well as the Perpetual Softball Tournament.

Accessorize with Tinian's Biton's Boutique and Rio's Fashion Boutique as they showcase new threads, and be sure to grab a toy or souvenir from Chelu Alynez. "5 and 1" is opening its doors to all gamers with darts and softball pitching game.

The True North Band will be live on stage this fiesta weekend, as well as the Selepeo Brothers and the Groove Theory Cover Band.

"The San Jose Fiesta is an event for everyone and an opportunity to see what Tinian has to offer—sights, sounds, food, and most of all, our hospitality. It is my honor to host this year's fiesta, with the support of all the festival sponsors. I commend everyone responsible for making it possible. From my island to yours: Biba San Jose!" said Aldan.

The San Jose Parish Council invites the public to attend festivities at the church in celebration of the fiesta weekend on Sunday, May 1. The Novenan San Jose will be held at the Social Hall at 3:15pm and Fr. Anthony Aguason will lead the Misan San Jose at 4pm followed by the dinner banquet. (PR)

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
INVITATION TO BID
ITB22-CHCC-015

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 30TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)
"PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLES FOR TINIAN HEALTH CENTER-THC, ROTA HEALTH CENTER-RHC, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DISEASE PROGRAM-EHDP AND MATERNAL & SUPPLY OFFICE-MSO"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
INVITATION TO BID
ITB22-CHCC/THC/RHC-016

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 30TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)
"LEASE OF PROVIDER'S HOUSING FOR TINIAN HEALTH CENTER AND ROTA HEALTH CENTER"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Rehabilitation Council
P.O. BOX 501521, SAIPAN, MP 96950: TEL: (670) 322-6537/8
FAX: (670) 322-6536(TTY): (670) 322-6449 | E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 2022 First General Membership Meeting on Friday, April 29, 2022 at the Kevin's Room, Aqua Resort, Saipan from 5:00pm-7:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of April 29, 2022
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes of September 18, 2021
- V. Reports
 - a. SRC Chairperson
 - b. OVR Executive Director
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Disability Employment Legislation
 - b. SRC/SILC/OVR Family Fun Day gathering
- VII. New Business
 - a. Review of membership attendance.
- VIII. Action Items
 - a. Election of Officers
- IX. Announcements/Miscellaneous
- X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters are asked to call Ms. Amber Pangilinan (OVR Administration and Operations Specialist) at 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY) for necessary arrangements no later than Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 12:00pm.

/s/ PRESTON O. BASA,
SRC CHAIRPERSON

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by a grant from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
RFP NO.: DPW22-RFP No.: 42200094

SUBMISSION DATE: May 23, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"Engineering and Design Related Services"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIACT SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after **April 22, 2022** at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Conference for this project on **May 10, 2022**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **May 17, 2022** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

Crowd celebrates Earth Day, backs Taiwan's inclusion in WHO

More than 250 people showed up in an Ypao beach cleanup event organized by Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam and Guam Visitors Bureau last April 23, 2022 to celebrate Earth Day and support Taiwan's voice and presence in the 75th World Health Assembly, the annual meeting of the World Health Organization, which will be held on May 22 to 28, 2022.

Taiwan has donated many personal protection equipment to Guam during the COVID-19 pandemic. Taiwan recently also donated a remote telecare platform to the Guam

Memorial Hospital, which would help Guam residents receive healthcare at home in the near future.

These facts demonstrate that Taiwan could help more if Taiwan participated in the WHO's network, said Paul Chen, the director general of TECO, in his welcome remarks last Saturday.

He expressed appreciation that so many people came to celebrate Earth Day together and support Taiwan's inclusion in WHO.

Over the last two years of the pandemic, Taiwan has demonstrated that it is willing and

able to participate in the global effort to solve many medical and public health issues. Unfortunately, Taiwan has never been included in the WHO's mechanism since 2017. Even in November 2020, while national representatives from around the globe were gathering in Geneva, Switzerland for the WHA and COVID-19 issues dominated the meeting, Taiwan, a country well known for its best-in-class result of COVID response at that time, was not invited to join at all.

Continuing to exclude Taiwan from the WHO is hurting global health. To extend the

efforts from last year's #LetTaiwanHelp beach cleanup, TECO and GVB jointly hosted a beach cleanup again this year to raise awareness of the exclusion of Taiwan's valuable input from the WHO. The event was also sponsored by Taiwanese companies in Guam, including First Commercial Bank and Chung Kuo Insurance Co., as one of Chung Kuo Insurance's 50th anniversary celebrations.

Sen. Tina Muña Barnes, who is the vice speaker of the 36th Guam Legislature, and her team joined the cleanup. She recognized that the Taiwanese community has been

helping the island of Guam. All the medical support and educational support that Taiwan has provided to Guam have made Taiwan a special place to Guam. The Legislature is therefore processing a resolution relative to supporting Taiwan's participation in the WHO's 75th WHA this year.

Sen. Amanda Shelton was there as well. She thanked Taiwan for being a great community partner to coordinate the event. She also emphasized that, in addition to celebrating Earth Day, it's also the National Volunteer Week. So, she thanked all participants for tak-

ing their time out of Saturday morning to help the cleanup.

People from different parts of the island participated in the cleanup at Ypao Beach. "Our Chamorro brothers and sisters, Filipinos, Koreans, Japanese, Taiwanese, Palauans, Thai, and Vietnamese worked together to maintain Guam's beautification. While Guam is striving to reopen and recover after the pandemic, TECO is glad that the cleanup event brought our local residents and foreign visitors a clean and beautiful beach to enjoy," said a TECO news release. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sen. Tina Muña Barnes, who is the vice speaker of the 36th Guam Legislature, and her team join the cleanup at Ypao Beach last Saturday.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Ypao beach cleanup event organized by Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam and Guam Visitors Bureau last April 23, 2022 to celebrate Earth Day and support Taiwan's voice and presence in the 75th World Health Assembly.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

More than 250 people showed up in an Ypao beach cleanup event.

House committee OKs psychology interjurisdictional compact, network program

The CNMI House of Representatives Health and Welfare Committee has approved two House bills to expand access to mental health care and to establish a new, integrated health network program within the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

House Bill 22-80 brings the CNMI one step closer to joining the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact, or PsyPact, an interstate compact designed

to facilitate the practice of telepsychology and the temporary in-person, face-to-face practice of psychology across state boundaries. The bill would expand CNMI residents' access to mental health care, including specialized services not currently available in the Marianas. The report and bill was due to be voted on at yesterday's House session.

The committee also approved a substitute bill for

House Bill 22-77 to establish a health network program within CHCC and provide for the orderly transition of medical referral services and administration to CHCC.

Committee chair Rep. Christina Sablan (D-Saipan) said the substitute bill includes amend-



Sablan

ments that reflect recommendations received during an extensive public comment period and multiple public hearings conducted on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota last summer.

She said the committee received comments from CHCC, including the CEO and the di-

rectors of the health centers on Tinian and Rota, medical referral services leadership and staff, the Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Finance, the special assistant for Administration, the mayors of Tinian and Rota, and members of the public. We also reviewed reports on the medical referral program provided by CHCC and the Office of the Public Auditor.

"In addition to providing for an orderly transition of medical referral to CHCC, the substitute bill establishes a health network program that is an integrated part of CHCC, and that facilitates and expands residents' access to CHCC's network of providers both within the CNMI and outside of the Commonwealth," she said.

A committee report and House Bill 22-77, HS1 will soon be transmitted to the full House for approval. (PR)

MARPAC, Triple J donations to be used to customize truck



Marianas Pacific and Northern Marianas Technical Institute staff hold the \$350 check presented to NMTech last March 29, 2022.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute was the recent beneficiary of two donations: beverage distributor Marianas Pacific donated to the school \$350 last March 29 and Triple J Saipan donated

\$3,000 on April 11.

"On behalf of the NMTech team, we would like to thank Triple J and MARPAC for their support and contributions to our educational institute. Your generous donations will help NMTech grow its recruitment efforts in the community by partially funding a student-

led, project-based activity to promote the various trades courses that are offered here," said Jodina Attao, chief executive officer of NMTech.

That project will consist of the rebuild and customization of a '98 Chevy Silverado C2500 that was donated to the institute.

The goal is to give this vehicle a 9.5" suspension lift that will be installed by automotive technology students, add a built-in sliding drawer feature to the truck bed for tools and utensils that will be built by the welding class. These additions will complement the food truck trailer that will be attached and provide

for culinary students a food truck that may be used for various activities. This build, Attao said, will entail the assistance and collaborative efforts of other expertise, including electronics installation and electrical wiring.

"Other sponsorships to make this project a reality are always welcome!" said Attao.

Today, April 28, is the last day to register for NMTech's construction trade courses.

For more information on their courses offered, visit <https://www.nmtechcnmi.org>, contact them at (670) 235-6684, email them at admissions@nmtechcnmi.org, or visit them at their location in Lower Base.



Triple J managers and staff pose with Northern Marianas Technical Institute staff after donating \$3,000 to NMTech last April 11.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Grand Kakampink Caravan on Sunday

The Leni-Kiko Kakampink Saipan Chapter will be holding its Grand Kakampink Caravan on May 1, 2022.

Participants will meet at the Bicol Pavilion in Susupe (across Marianas High School) near the children's playground.

The caravan will kick off at 3pm. All participants are encouraged to come as early as 2pm so that we can organize/line-up the cars properly and all other setup. Participants are advised to decorate their own cars (safely), provide your car with Leni-Kiko banners, stickers, balloons, among others.

Contact persons for the event are Jimmy B.(989-4291) and Marlon Regaton (788-9358). (PR)

Water service interruption in San Vicente, Upper Dandan Homestead, Obyan

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Saturday, April 30, 2022, from 8:30am to 4:30pm for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in San Vicente, Upper Dandan Homestead and Obyan.

This will allow CUC water personnel to repair two main service lateral leaks in south San Vicente, and a possible 12-inch mainline break on Dandan Road. Customers should expect restoration of

water services soon after.

For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite, motorists are asked to proceed with caution when traveling through the working area or to take an alternative route when traveling through the jobsite as crews will be working on the main road in Kattan Hudda Drive and along the shoulder of Dandan Road near LZ Market.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as we continue to provide reliable service to the people of the CNMI.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

JKPL parking lot undergoing repairs

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library parking lot is undergoing repairs starting last Tuesday, April 26, 2022. As part of the Adopt-a-Median Project organized by the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, in partnership with the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, sections of the JKPL's parking lot will be closed while repairs are taking place. Repairs are expected to continue for the next two weeks. Funding was made possible by the Office of Grants Management. (PR)

The CNMI Department of Public Safety would like to notify the public of upcoming road closures during the Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival taking place at the Sugar King Park and the CNMI Museum from Friday, April 29, through Sunday, May 1, 2022. Road closures are listed below:

■ Friday, April 29, 2022
Chalan Pale Arnold Road between the Sugar King Park and the Museum will be closed off from 3pm through 12am (midnight)

■ Saturday, April 30, 2022
Chalan Pale Arnold Road between the Sugar King Park and the Museum will be closed off from 12pm through 12am (midnight)

The road closure is to allow event attendees cross safely between the Sugar King Park and the CNMI Museum. All

motorists are asked to plan ahead by taking alternate routes to avoid delays. DPS is asking motorists to avoid being behind the wheel while drunk, drugged, drowsy, or distracted. And to be vigilant for joggers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Call 911 anytime to report a crime in an emergency. (PR)

Riman Cosmetics hosts top sales reps in the Marianas

Riman Cosmetics of South Korea recently hosted its top sales reps in the Marianas, one of the first Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions—or MICE—large group tours to the destination since before the pandemic. One hundred top sales reps of the company were on Saipan on April 20-24, 2022.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo said the group chose the Marianas based on the destination's strong emphasis on community and guest safety throughout the pandemic and its inter-agency COVID-19 response system, as well as the destination's natural beauty.

"Based on our demon-

strated ability to manage and respond to COVID, as originally outlined under our travel bubble agreement with Korea, there is confidence in the Marianas as a destination for even large group tours," said Iakopo. "The resumption of MICE travel is welcomed, and the MVA is actively negotiating for similar group trips in

the coming months."

The group arrived from Seoul and Busan, Korea, on April 20 and 21 and departed on Sunday, April 24. The MVA welcomed the group at a reception dinner at Pacific Islands Club Saipan, where they lodged during their stay. Hana Tour coordinated the tour. (MVA)



Part of a group of over 100 representatives of Riman Cosmetics in Korea visit Banzai Cliff in April 2022, during their MICE tour.

Environment

Precinct 5 lawmakers hold 3rd Kagman Trash Drop-off

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

The Precinct 5 community got treated to another free trash drop-off last Saturday, this time at the Banalu Loop in Kagman III. The service was

provided for Kagman residents by the offices of Reps. Richard Lizama (D-Saipan) and Leila Staffler (D-Saipan).

"We have huge trash bins for use that will eliminate travel time to the transfer station and will help draw more trash

from the house. [Rep.] Staffler and I, this is our third time, and we're looking forward to have more. We have good participation and good productivity," Lizama said.

The transfer station, located in Lower Base in Tanapag—

about a 15-minute drive away from Kagman—is where CNMI's trash (mostly Saipan's) are brought and sorted, given its materials recovery facility in place.

"We saw trucks and trucks and trucks of people bring-

ing their debris so that they have a sanitary way of living in their homes and taking out all that old stuff that needed to go. We understand that it's hard for people sometimes," Staffler said.

Three large containers were

made available for the residents where they were able to dump typhoon debris, metal debris, old tires and appliances, and household trash.

"We are trying to provide our community with access to ways of keeping their areas clean," Staffler said. "One day soon, the Kagman area transfer station will be available. But until that day, we need to find different ways to assist our community with getting rid of their trash—until there is a system islandwide, where people have equal access to getting their trash to the dumpsters."

The trash drop-off is the third that Lizama and Staffler have jointly organized, the first one of which was held in Kannat Tabla last February and the second one in Kagman 2 field in April, last year.

GET YOUR VOICES HEARD!

Share your vision for Laolao Bay and Achugao watersheds

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

Get your voice heard and let environmental planners know how you feel about possible developments surrounding two major watersheds on Saipan: the LaoLao Bay and Achugao watersheds.

You can do this by answer-

ing a short informal survey, prepared by the Pacific Coastal Research & Planning, to help them draft the management plans for the two watersheds.

The areas discussed in the survey are: for LaoLao Bay watershed, "the area extending from the quarry in southern Dandan, through San Vicente

west of Isa Drive, encompassing the Laolao Bay Golf course"; and for Achugao watershed, "the villages of San Roque, Tanapag, and Lower Base, up to the top of Wireless Ridge and peaks north."

The Division of Coastal Resources Management is encouraging everyone, especially "residents that live,

work, and play" there, to participate as the plans will serve as a "roadmap to enhancing and/or preserving the natural and built environment in both communities."

To access the survey, visit https://watershed-visions-for-laolao-and-achugao-pcrp.hub.arcgis.com/?fbclid=IwAR0quhNyyoYH_g1k6pUmSgBXRh-MEnUnfbMdxlWyJ8RHQxaUh-1-nf9C_kkY.

Aside from the survey, you can also add your ideas you want, or issues you have seen, directly on the interactive map the PCRP has prepared. For more information, contact PCRP at info@pacificcrp.org or call (670) 285-7995.



EARTH DAY CLEANUPS

Precinct 5 Rep. Richard Lizama (D-Saipan) provided trash hauling services for the Marine Beach cleanup organized by Miss Northern Marianas Earth. Photo courtesy of Miss Northern Marianas Earth.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Earth Day beach cleanup. Salty Skin Pacific keeps true to their mission to help protect the ocean as they cleanup Obyan Beach, as part of the Earth Day Islandwide Cleanup last April 22. Photo courtesy of Salty Skin Pacific.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



2022 Earth Day Cleanup at Marine Beach organized by Miss Northern Marianas Earth, in partnership with the CNMI Youth Affairs, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, and the CNMI Women's Affairs Office. Photo courtesy of Miss Northern Marianas Earth.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



April 22, 2022, marks the 52nd anniversary of Earth Day, a day intended to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's natural environment. Organizers started Earth Day in response to a massive oil spill in waters near Santa Barbara, Calif., in 1969.

There are ...

	68,000	Wind turbines across the country
	2,400	Hydroelectric power generating stations
	64	Geothermal power plants
	191	Biomass electric power generation plants
	10,000	Solar electric power generation companies
	3,000	Electric distribution companies

Source: U.S. Census Bureau statistics, ibisworld.com, eesi.org
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Life & Style

Widower wonders if age creates boundary for intimacy

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: My wife of 41 years passed away four years ago. I'm in my mid-60s. I have sought grief counseling to fully process her loss. The counselor has encouraged me to maintain and expand my peer relationships. The counselor has also encouraged dating, which I have tried, but no romances have resulted.

My wife was diagnosed with bipolar type 2 mental disorder, which progressed the longer she lived. When she died, I was glad she no longer had to suffer with her mental illness. With the onset of menopause and the bipolar, her libido had dropped dramatically. The counselor has assured me that if romance develops, sexual relations can happen with women my age.

Because of my religious convictions, I will not have sexual relations before marriage. My question concerns a woman's desire for sexual relations at this stage of life. Are sexual relations something that can be mutually enjoyed, or just a requirement of marriage?

WONDERING IN IOWA

DEAR WONDERING: Allow me to put your concerns to rest. Seniors are not clones of each other. Some enjoy sex into their 80s; others do not. If both partners are comfortable with their bodies and willing to accommodate the inevitable changes that come as their bodies age, they can enjoy sex as much as couples who are younger.

While your religious beliefs may not allow you to have sex before marriage, there is no reason why the subject can't be honestly discussed, and this is what I urge you to do if you become involved with someone.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Recently, my daughter asked if her girlfriend could stay with us until the two of them move out in a month. To help them out, my husband and I agreed. The problem is, the girlfriend is very insecure about her weight. She's on the heavier side, and my daughter's weight is average. Sometimes when we're talking about fitness or nutrition, it feels like a sore subject for her. I don't want her to feel uncomfortable around us because I watch what I eat. Advice?

WEIGHTY ISSUE IN WASHINGTON

DEAR WEIGHTY ISSUE: Ask your daughter if mentioning these topics makes her girlfriend uncomfortable. Keep in mind that your houseguest will be staying with you only a few more weeks. Until she leaves, refrain from discussing topics that make her uncomfortable in her presence.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am 60 and disabled. I desperately would like a dog. I'm not a cat person. I can't get a bird because I have lupus. Working at a shelter isn't an option. I added up all the pluses and minuses, and the minuses were more plentiful. HOWEVER, the pluses are SO tempting.

Logically, I know it would not be fair to either of us. The wiser part of myself says no, but I want someone who is happy when I come home, kisses me, sits on my lap and shares my bed. And someone to care for. Any advice?

NURTURER IN NEW YORK

DEAR NURTURER: Rescue a dog who needs nurturing as much as you do. Adopt an older one from an animal rescue, and you may save two lives at once. That said, it's important you discuss those pluses and minuses with a veterinarian and take out pet insurance — just in case the need arises.

Psychologist hired by Depp testifies about Heard's health

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP)—A forensic psychologist testified Tuesday that actor Amber Heard suffers from borderline personality disorder and histrionic personality disorder, as the civil lawsuit between her and ex-husband Johnny Depp continues to wallow in the couple's personal issues.

Depp is suing Heard for libel in Fairfax County Circuit Court after she wrote an op-ed piece in The Washington Post referring to herself as "a public figure representing domestic abuse." The article doesn't mention Depp by name, but his lawyers say the article contains "defamation by implication" because it clearly refers to allegations of domestic abuse made by Heard when she filed for divorce in 2016.

The psychologist, Shannon Curry, was hired by Depp's legal team. She said she reached her diagnosis during 12 hours of interviews with Heard, as

well as from reviewing her mental-health records.

Curry also testified that Heard does not suffer post-traumatic stress disorder from her relationship with Depp, as Heard has claimed.

Depp's team Curry hopes Curry's testimony bolsters their contention that Heard was the aggressor in the couple's troubled relationship. Depp just concluded four days on the witness stand and testified about Heard's "need for conflict" and her tendency to hound and pursue him during arguments when he tried to walk away and disengage.

The two personality disorders are similar, Curry said. Borderline personality is a disease of instability, she said "driven by an underlying fear of abandonment." She said people with the disorder



"will make desperate attempts to prevent that from happening."

Evidence introduced earlier at the trial includes audio clips of Heard begging Depp not to leave, and to stay with her after he indicated a desire to break up or separate.

She also said that borderline personality disorder "seems to be a predictive factor for women who implement violence against their partner." Depp has said he is the one who was a victim of domestic violence, and that Heard hit him on multiple occasions and threw items like paint cans and vodka bottles at him.

Histrionic personality disorder, Curry said, is associated with "drama and shallowness," and a need to be the center of attention.

She said there's a correla-

Kim Kardashian testifies, causes stir at 'Blac Chyna' trial

LOS ANGELES

(AP)—Kim Kardashian testified Tuesday that she had no memory of making any attempt to kill the reality show that starred her brother Rob Kardashian and his then-fiancée Blac Chyna. But she acknowledged demanding that Chyna be kept off of "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" after hearing Chyna had abused her brother.

"I will not go into a toxic work environment," Kardashian said of her refusal to work with Chyna. "On my own show, I have the power to do that."

Kardashian took the stand for an hour in a Los Angeles courtroom in a civil trial in which Chyna alleges that Kardashian and three other members of her family defamed Chyna and convinced produc-



Kardashian

ers and the E! network to cancel the spinoff show, "Rob & Chyna."

Her testimony was mostly unremarkable — she spent much of it saying "I don't remember" — but as the biggest star by far to testify in a trial full of stars,

she caused a stir when she walked from the gallery to the witness stand wearing a dark gray pinstriped suit with white sneakers. The moment she stepped down, several reporters dashed from the courtroom to file stories.

Chyna's attorney Lynne Ciani showed Kardashian a series of text messages from late 2016 and early 2017 with Kardashian's name attached.

In every case, Kardashian said she had no memory of sending them, though she didn't deny their likely

Sonia Sanchez wins \$80K Jackson Poetry Prize

NEW YORK (AP)—Sonia Sanchez has received the Jackson Poetry Prize, an \$80,000 award that continues a recent wave of lifetime achievement honors for the 87-year-old poet, educator and activist.

Her award was announced Tuesday by Poets & Writers (<https://www.pw.org>), the publisher of Poets & Writers magazine.

"Over her 7-decade career, Sonia Sanchez has distinguished herself as a major figure in American letters," the judges' citation reads in part. "Her vast and commanding oeuvre of published poetry invokes the power and revo-

lutionary properties of language itself — intoning the struggles and joys of entire communities while reinvigorating traditional forms."

Since 2018, Sanchez has also received the Wallace Stevens Award, the Anisfield-Wolf Lifetime Achievement Award, the Dorothy & Lillian Gish Prize and the Edward MacDowell Medal.

Sanchez was a founding member of the Black Arts Movement in the late 1960s and is widely regarded as a pioneering teacher of Black studies. Her poetry collections include "Homecoming," "Love Poems" and "Shake Loose My Skin."



Witherspoon

Nashville area.

"As a Tennessee native, it is thrilling to see how much growth and development has come to our home state," she said in a statement. "The opportunity to go as a family and watch a world-class team compete has been such an incredible experience."

Henry has been with the Titans since 2016. He joins Mark Ingram (D.C.), Patrick Mahomes (Kansas City) and Russell Wilson (Seattle) as NFL players who have become MLS part owners.

Actors who are owners include Drew Carey (Seattle), Matthew McConaughey (Austin) and Will Ferrell (Los Angeles FC).

Actor Reese Witherspoon becomes part-owner of Nashville MLS team

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

(AP)—Actor Reese Witherspoon and Tennessee Titans running back Derrick Henry have joined the ownership group of Major League Soccer's Nashville team ahead of the opening Sunday of Geodis Park, its 30,000-seat stadium.

Witherspoon's husband, agent and investor Jim Toth, also has joined the ownership group, the team said Tuesday.

The soccer team started play in 2020 at Nissan Stadium, home of the Titans, and played its first eight league games on the road this season before it opens the new venue with a game against Philadelphia.

Witherspoon grew up in the

Heat hold off Hawks 97-94, reach Eastern semifinals

NBA MIAMI (AP)—If one play could tell the story of a five-game series, consider this one: Trae Young's final shot from the field was a corner 3-point try that he rushed because he knew a defender was coming his way.

The shot bounced off the side of the backboard.

Take a bow, Miami. Even without Kyle Lowry and Jimmy Butler, defense carried the day—and carried the Heat into the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Victor Oladipo scored 23 points, Bam Adebayo added 20 points and 11 rebounds, and the Heat moved into Round 2 of the playoffs by eliminating Young and the Atlanta Hawks 97-94 on Tuesday night.

"The biggest thing about this game was our defense," Adebayo said.

That was, and is, Miami's plan. The Heat swarmed Young from the start of Game 1 to the end of Game 5, holding Atlanta's high-octane scorer to a 15.4-point average in the series on 32% shooting. Young had as many assists as he had turnovers—30 of each.

"They're a good defensive team," Young said. "Their team is more of a system than who they have on their team. No matter who they have out there, they can play. ... And when they've got a guy that they're targeting and trying to take away, they do a really good job of doing that."

Tyler Herro scored 16, Max Strus scored 15 and Caleb Martin added 10 for the top-seeded Heat, who got the clincher with Butler and Lowry sitting out with injuries.

Young went 2 for 12 from the floor, scoring just 11 points. De'Andre Hunter scored 35 for Atlanta, which got 12 apiece from Kevin Huerter and Danilo Gallinari.

"Obviously, I didn't shoot the ball well," Young said.

Hunter fouled out with 41.6 seconds left, Miami clinging to a three-point lead at the time. The Hawks got a stop, taking over with 29.2 seconds remaining, and retained possession after a missed shot from Gallinari went out of bounds off Miami.

The Hawks never got another shot off, time expired and Miami moved on.

"They are a hell of a team," Hawks coach Nate McMillan said. "Those guys compete every second that they're out on the floor and I have a great deal of respect for how they play."

Onyeka Okongwu's three-point play got Atlanta within



ter with a windmill dunk that helped give the Grizzlies some much-needed energy.

Suns 112, Pelicans 97

In Phoenix, Mikal Bridges scored 31 points in a stellar all-around game, Chris Paul added 22 points and 11 assists and the top-seeded Phoenix Suns beat the New Orleans Pelicans 112-97 on Tuesday night to take a 3-2 lead in the Western Conference first-round series.

The Suns never trailed but also never totally pulled away until the final few minutes against the feisty Pelicans. Once again, Phoenix found a way to close, improving to 50-0 this season when leading after three quarters, including 3-0 in this series.

Bridges closed the Suns' scoring with two emphatic dunks in the final minute, capping arguably the best game of his pro career.

Brandon Ingram scored 22 points to lead the Pelicans. CJ McCollum added 21.

The Suns took an 89-78 lead into the final quarter after Cameron Payne's late 3-pointer. The Pelicans — just 36-46 during the regular season — pulled within seven points with less than two minutes left, but Cameron Johnson threw down a one-handed jam on the ensuing fast break to keep the Suns in control.

Phoenix will try to clinch the series in Game 6 on Thursday in New Orleans. If the first five games are any indication, it will not be easy.

Paul bounced back from a subpar Game 4 and Bridges showed why he was one of three finalists for the league's defensive player of the year, blocking four shots.

It was also an ironman performance for Bridges, who played 47 of a possible 48 minutes yet never looked tired. He made 12 of 17 shots from the field, grabbed five rebounds and had two steals.

Phoenix played its third straight game without All-Star guard Devin Booker, who was still out with a strained right hamstring that happened in Game 2.

The Suns jumped out to a 2-20 lead by the end of the first quarter. They looked much more like the team that led the NBA with 64 wins during the regular season, playing tight defense and making the extra pass on offense to get open shots.

Phoenix led by as many as 17 during the second quarter before settling for a 59-46 advantage. Paul had 16 points before the break while Ayton added 13. Ingram had 13 for the Pelicans.

and the clock ran out.

"I thought it was fitting that we had to get this game with a stop at the end," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Grizzlies 111, Timberwolves 109

In Memphis, Tenn. first, Ja Morant gave the Memphis Grizzlies and their fans a much-needed energy boost by flying through the air for a big dunk at the end of the third quarter.

Then the All-Star guard took over the game's final two minutes.

Morant scored the last 13 points for Memphis, and his layup with a second left capped the Grizzlies' big rally from 11 points down in the fourth quarter to edge the Minnesota Timberwolves 111-109 on Tuesday night and grab a 3-2 lead in their first-round Western Conference series.

"Go get a bucket. Ja," Morant said of the game-winning play.

Morant, named the NBA's most improved player on Monday, struggled mightily much of the game. But he turned it on in the fourth quarter, scoring 18 points — including 9 of 10 at the free-throw line. His lone 3 of the game came with 1:03 left, giving Memphis its first lead since the first quarter.

"Obviously, he had a brilliant fourth quarter," Memphis coach Taylor Jenkins said.

The Grizzlies point guard came from the low post as the Grizzlies inbounded the ball with 3.7 seconds left and

lost Anthony Edwards at the top of the key. That left him an open lane into the paint he's so rarely had in this series, beating Jarred Vanderbilt with his left hand on an underhanded layup.

Edwards said he wanted to try to steal the ball.

"Dumb mistake," Edwards said.

Morant finished with 30 and had 13 rebounds and nine assists. Desmond Bane added 25 points, and Brandon Clarke had 21 off the bench for Memphis, and Jaren Jackson Jr. added 12 before fouling out.

Karl-Anthony Towns led the Timberwolves with 28 points and 12 rebounds. Anthony Edwards had 22, and D'Angelo Russell added 12 and Taurean Prince 10.

Game 6 is Friday night back in Minnesota with the Wolves now trying to force a seventh game Sunday back in Memphis.

"It's a tough pill to swallow," Towns said. "You feel like you got it after all the mistakes made and everything like that. We hit a big 3 to tie the game up with 4 seconds (left). You feel good. You feel good about going into overtime and having a chance to win the game. Just a learning experience."

The Timberwolves led 99-88 with 6:58 left after three free throws by Towns, and Jackson fouling out for a second straight game. The Grizzlies responded with a 10-0 run to set up a thrilling finish to what had been an ugly, poor-shooting game, and outscored Minnesota 37-

24 in the fourth.

Edwards tied it up at 109 for Minnesota with a 3 with 3.7 seconds left. That set up Morant for the final drive to the basket for the game-winner to start the celebration.

Clarke said he told Morant during the hug he thanked God the Grizzlies have him on their team.

"Thank God that you're as good as you are because we had just fought so hard," Clarke said. "And hit a really tough 3. And I was just like, it's fine, though, because we got 12 and we got a player that can make a really, really big-time finish. And I was like, 'Yeah, thank God that we got you, man.'"

Jenkins was fined \$15,000 Monday for criticizing the officiating after Game 4, a 119-118 win by Minnesota. On Tuesday, his Grizzlies got to the free-throw line more than Minnesota — they just didn't shoot well once there, making 26 of 39 compared to Minnesota's 21 of 24.

The Grizzlies opened the game on a 13-2 run and looked like the team that earned the highest seed in franchise history.

Then Jackson got his second foul on Patrick Beverley's 3 and went to the bench. The Timberwolves, the NBA's best 3-point shooting team in the regular season, started knocking down shots, going 7 of 11 outside the arc and leading 31-28 at the end of the first quarter.

Minnesota was up 55-53 at halftime, then outscored Memphis 30-21 in the third. But Morant capped the quar-

Rizzo's 3 HRs, Judge's B-day bash lift Yanks over O's, 12-8

NEW YORK (AP)—After 9 ½ seasons at Wrigley Field, Anthony Rizzo is finding his new confines plenty friendly.

"I think he likes Yankee Stadium," New York manager Aaron Boone said. "After tonight, I think it sealed it."

Rizzo lofted a trio of homers into Yankee Stadium's short right-field porch, Aaron Judge connected on his birthday and Joey Gallo ended the longest home-run drought of his career as New York outslugged the Baltimore Orioles 12-8 Tuesday night.

Gleyber Torres tacked on a bases-loaded triple in the seventh, and the previously slumping Yankees followed Sunday's 10-run outburst against Cleveland with another barrage, helping them win for the sixth time in seven games.

"Double digits, it's great to see," Boone said. "I think guys are just getting settled more."

Rizzo floated his sixth, seventh and eighth homers for six RBIs, Judge joined Lou Gehrig and Jerry Mumphrey as Yankees to homer on their 30th birthdays and Gallo connected for the first time in 23 games, a slump dating to last season.

Rizzo's homers averaged 350 feet, the shortest average distance in a three-homer game since Statcast began tracking in 2015, per MLB.

"He's got huge power he can pull to all fields," Orioles manager Brandon Hyde said. "He's smart. He took advantage of (the ballpark), all three pull-side homers here."

Boone said he thought the famously short right field at Yankee Stadium fit Rizzo's game well. Rizzo said he's not considering it into his approach.

"I'm not worried about what park we're playing in," he said. "I just try to have my at-bat. I think that just comes with experience in the big leagues."

Luis Severino (2-0) pitched a no-hitter into the sixth inning for New York before Jorge Mateo's one-out single, and Anthony Santander followed a few batters later with a three-run homer that set off a homer-filled finish.

Austin Hays added a three-run drive against Jonathan Loaisiga for the pesky Orioles, who scored four runs against a bullpen with a 2.44 ERA entering Tuesday.

"It was important tonight we continue to add on," Boone said. "And it was good to see the offense support the pitching."

Rizzo hit a three-run shot in the third that just reached the first row in right field, added a two-run drive in the fifth and capped it off with a bizarre

solo homer in the eighth.

The left-handed hitter stood near home plate and watched his high fly arc down the right-field line, certain it would end up foul. The ball curved back toward play and landed right atop the 314-foot sign, just inside the foul pole.

"I was kind of just shocked," Rizzo said.

He gave the dugout a puzzled look before starting his trot, then took a curtain call for fans after a replay review upheld the first three-homer game of his career.

"Took me a long time in Chicago to get one, to be honest with you," the former Cubs star said. "It was actually a joke there amongst teammates. Listen, it's a game I'll never forget."

Gallo ended his drought with a solo drive off Jordan Lyles (1-2) in the fourth. Teammates gave him the silent treatment in the dugout before breaking out big grins and hugs for the 28-year-old slugger. Gallo went long 38 times last season, including 13 after a midseason trade to New York.

Brewers 12, Pirates 8

In Pittsburgh, Willy Adames homered twice and drove in a career-high seven runs, and Milwaukee beat Pittsburgh.

Adames hit a two-run blast in the first inning and a three-run drive during a six-run sixth for the NL Central-leading Brewers. It was the first multi-homer game of his career. He added a two-run double in the fifth and finished 4 for 5, raising his batting average 45 points to .239.

The game was tied 4-4 in the sixth when Rowdy Tellez singled with one out off reliever Aaron Fletcher (0-1). Tyrone Taylor followed with a triple and came home on a single by Omar Naváez. Adames' drive later in the inning made it 10-4.

Brent Suter (1-0) allowed Kevin Newman's game-tying two-run single in the fifth in relief of starter Brandon Woodruff. Josh Hader entered with two on and two out in the ninth and struck out Tucupita Marcano for his ninth save, which leads the majors.

Twins 5, Tigers 4

In Minneapolis, Detroit catcher Eric Haase made a throwing error on a botched rundown, capping a chaotic play that gave Minnesota two runs and a wild victory over Detroit.

Miguel Sanó had the final hit for the Twins — and his ill-advised baserunning after a long single off Detroit closer Gregory Soto (1-1) wound up helping them win their fifth in a row.

Javier Báez gave the Ti-



New York Yankees' Anthony Rizzo follows through for a two-run home run during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles Tuesday, April 26, 2022, in New York. AP

gers the lead with a three-run homer in the eighth against Emilio Pagán. Báez also hit a two-out RBI double in the sixth to chase Chris Paddack, the only run allowed by the Twins starter.

Griffin Jax (1-0) pitched the ninth for Minnesota.

Angels 4, Guardians 1

In Anaheim, Calif., Mike Trout homered and drove in three runs, and Patrick Sandoval pitched seven innings of two-hit ball as surging Los Angeles beat Cleveland for its third straight win.

Trout drove a slider from Triston McKenzie (0-2) into the bullpens in left field for a two-run shot in the third inning to give the Angels a 3-0 lead.

Sandoval (1-0) struck out nine and has not allowed an earned run in three starts this season.

Raisel Iglesias struck out Franmil Reyes and Miller for his fourth save.

Padres 9, Reds 6

In Cincinnati, Eric Hosmer hit his first homer of the season and Jake Cronenworth added a bases-loaded triple during an eight-run fourth inning that sent San Diego past struggling Cincinnati.

The Reds, who snapped an 11-game losing streak on Sunday, own baseball's worst record at 3-14.

Joe Musgrove (3-0) allowed two earned runs through six innings. He beat the Reds for the second time this season.

In the fourth, Reds starter Reiver Sanmartin (0-3) gave up seven straight hits, including Hosmer's three-run homer.

Mets 3, Cardinals 0

In St. Louis, Chris Bassitt pitched six strong innings, and

Peralta's second homer came against Brusdar Graterol (0-1).

Rangers 5, Astros 1

In Arlington, Texas, Jake Odorizzi allowed one hit over six innings to end a long winless drought, and a rejuvenated Kyle Tucker homered and drove in three runs to power Houston past Texas.

Odorizzi (1-2) permitted just two baserunners and won for the first time in 10 starts since last August.

The lone hit off Odorizzi was a home run by Adolis García in the second. The right-hander threw only 78 pitches.

The Astros took a 4-1 lead in the fourth against starter Taylor Hearn (0-2).

Mariners 8, Rays 4

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Logan Gilbert pitched 5 2/3 shutout innings, Adam Frazier hit a three-run double and Seattle beat Tampa Bay.

Frazier's double off Josh Fleming (2-2) came during a seven-run fourth inning for the Mariners that was made possible by back-to-back errors from shortstop Wander Franco and first baseman Ji-Man Choi.

Gilbert (3-0) gave up two hits and three walks while striking out seven. The 24-year-old right-hander has given up one earned run in four starts.

The Mariners have won four straight and 9 of 11.

Phillies 10, Rockies 3

In Philadelphia, Odubel Herrera homered, doubled and drove in three runs, Zach Eflin pitched six strong innings and Philadelphia again took advantage of some shaky Colorado defense.

Charlie Blackmon hit two solo homers for Colorado.

Eflin (1-1) allowed only C.J. Cron's single leading off the second and Blackmon's one-out homer to right field in the sixth. The right-hander struck out three and walked one.

The Phillies scored three unearned runs in the third against German Marquez (0-1).

Marlins 5, Nationals 2

In Washington, outfielders Jesús Sánchez and Avisail García each threw out a runner at the plate in the fourth inning, Joey Wendle hit his first homer and Miami beat reeling Washington.

Sandy Alcantara (2-0) extended his shutout streak to 17 innings over his past three starts for the Marlins and ended up giving up one run and six hits over six innings, aided by some bungling on the basepaths by the hosts.

Josiah Gray (2-2) allowed four runs in 5 2/3 innings for the Nationals, who lost their sixth straight.

MHS-1, FSM ease way to title win



Francisco M. Sablan Middle School players and coaches join Northern Mariana Islands Football Association officials and Public School System athletics program director Nick Gross for a group photo during the awards ceremony for the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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Francisco M. Sablan Middle School and Marianas High School-1 were crowned champions of the 2021-2022 season of the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League after outclassing their respective opponents last weekend at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

In the girls middle school division, the FMS Napu Rid-

ers cruised past Saipan International School, 3-0, to clinch the season title and finish the competition unbeaten.

Rosie Saralu starred in FMS' finals win after scoring all three goals in the match. She ended up recording 12 goals this season to earn both the Golden Boot and Finals MVP awards. Saralu and company defeated SIS and Saipan Community School in Group A of pool play to reach

the semis where the Napu Riders pounced in on Chacha Oceanview Middle School last Friday, 9-1, for a finals berth at the top half of the draw. Saralu fired six goals in the semis victory, while Brienne Echalico added two.

In the other Final Four pairing, SIS, which had a 1-0-1 win-draw-loss record in Group B of pool play, stunned Hopwood Middle School, 3-0, to move into the title

match. Julie Chavez, Phoenix Gross, and Lya Kim scored for the Geckos.

Meanwhile, in the girls high school finals, MHS-1 dominated Saipan Southern High School, 4-1, to also complete the season with a perfect record.

The Lady Dolphins swept their three opponents in Group A of pool play to march into the semis. They were then paired against Mt. Carmel School in last Friday's

Final Four and won, 3-0, to move one victory away from securing the division finals. MHS-1 went on to triumph in the championship game behind the goals of Allyssa Angeles, Tamia Hix, Amaya Reyes, and Jannah Casarino.

Angeles was later named Finals MVP, while Saipan Southern's Summer Manahane took the Golden Boot award after recording nine

goals in five games, including the Manta Rays' lone goal in the finals.

Saipan Southern finished second behind MHS-1 in pool play in Group A and reached the finals after eliminating SIS last Friday, 4-1. Manahane tallied two goals in the Manta Rays' semis win over the Lady Geckos, while Neriah Lumbad and Sophia Quintos chipped in one apiece.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas High School 1's Allyssa Angeles, right, dribbles away from Saipan Southern High School's Christina Atalig during their title match in the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

CUKI

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Billie Pangelinan ruled the Power Puff Girls Class after also winning both heats for 50 points. Nanako Celis finished second with 44 points, while Shaniah Alvarez rounded out the Top 3 with 40 points.

In the Peewee I Class, Bentley Koshiro also was perfection with 50 points, followed by Roseha Untalan and Ryan Borja with 44 points and 40 points, respectively.

Conan Iakopo continued the recurring theme of the April race after topping the Peewee II Class with 50 points. Keenon Togawa was second with

44 points and Elleayah Cruz was third with 38 points.

In the Minis I Class, Stanley Iakopo Jr. also won both heats for 50 points. Harley Susulin and Jonoah Santos complete the Top 3 with 42 points and 40 points, respectively.

Vicente Palacios emerged in a tough race in the Minis II Class with 43 points. Only a point behind was Devin Yumul with 42 points, while T.J. Ferrer got third place with 35 points.

Results of the Big Boy ATV Class, Peewee ATV Class, Mini ATV Class, Novice Class, and Intermediate Class will be reported in tomorrow's issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

iel Opanda, and Razel Llano finished 1-2-3 with times of 41:20, 41:43, and 45:20, respectively.

Marie Sablan was first in the women's mountain bike easy course with her time of 52:52. Juanita Fajardo and Elsa Reyes came in second and third with rides of 56:46 and 1:07:12, respectively.

Champions for each category received a plaque and \$100. Second place got a medal and \$75, while third place took home a medal and \$50.

Race coordinator Wilfredo Barbo said proceeds from SULC's 6th Annual Bike Race will go to the Lions Club's global causes like diabetes, feeding the hungry, and treating those who are visually impaired and with childhood cancer.

NMSA

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ementary School.

Toves said he had no inkling their team would ultimately win the NMSA Team of the Year award since there were a lot of teams vying for the yearly honor.

"I never believed we had a chance until I heard that my team was named the team of the year. I was just really shocked that we won that award. I'm dedicating this to my family and my friends who supported me and cheered me on throughout that volleyball tournament. My school also for coming down to watch us win and cheering for us every game. I also want to dedicate this to my team for working hard each day of practice and in games also and also to our coach, Randy Steele, who coached us and for making me a better player each game," he said.

For Richard Steele, taking home the coveted honor was also a pleasant surprise for him.

"I was thinking that there were other teams who deserved to win the award, so hearing our school and names get called up definitely caught me by surprise. I would like to dedicate this award to our school and my dad. Mount Carmel School is like a second family to me. As a high school athlete, you dream of winning the championship title for your school."

On second thought, Steele said completing an undefeated season doesn't come every day so on that regard, they also deserved the award.

"It feels right to give this team of the year trophy to our school. I would also like to dedicate this award to my dad, who was also our coach. He pushed every single one of us and taught us how to be better players, so without him this award wouldn't be possible. This award especially means a lot to me. I've won athlete of the month a few times, but I've never won athlete of the year. I've always wanted to win that awesome, giant latte stone trophy, so finally being able to win this, and win it with this team, puts a huge smile on my face," he said.

Diaz said while there's a possibility they'd take home team of the year, he was still surprised when their team was called on stage to accept the award.

"We knew we had a chance, but to actually win it? That was a surprise. All the other teams were amazing and are great at what they do, so congratulations to them as well. I'd say I dedicate the award to our school and most especially our coach. Without the school's support at every game and coach Randy's training and guidance, we wouldn't have done as great as we did in the tournament. Our win is their win as well...Winning team

of the year has to be one of our greatest accomplishments, both as a team and individually, but it doesn't stop us from achieving even more," he said.

Like his teammates, Kim said winning the award also came out of left field for him.

"Frankly, I didn't expect this award. Our team and I were stunned when we were called as the team of the year. Team of the month was enough for me, but the team of the year made our team and me even happier. Surprise gifts always make them memorable and meaningful."

He thanked MCS for giving them the opportunity to excel not only in sports but also in academics.

"I appreciate our school, MCS, for providing various fields and funs. I also want to give this big thanks to whoever supported us under the hot weather. Without their support and encouragement, we couldn't win, and of course, we wouldn't even think of these significant awards...Frankly, I didn't have a significant role in our team. I was mainly on the bench shouting my words to my team with hope, earnestness, and courage. I believe the team is a word that combines pros and cons, and Merrick, Sam, Brandon, Jboy, Richard, and I threw out our greed (avarice) and played with our hearts."

Lee said he also didn't

expect them to win team of the year and wants to dedicate the award to the school. However, if he were to choose one player deserving of the team MVP, it would be Toves.

"This award is the start to my journey in volleyball and it humbled me to do better. I realized I couldn't do this and get such an award without a great team like this."

Ryu reinforced his teammates' surprise of winning the team of the year by saying he was in utter shock when he heard their names and MCS announced as the winners.

"To be honest, I didn't expect to receive the award for team of the year; although I was hoping to receive this meaningful award. I am dedicating this to my school. I am proud to represent my school and to win the team of the year...This award means a lot to us. This showed everyone that we worked as a team and as a family either we win or lose. Because we had the best teamwork, we gave our best for us to win."

Mount Carmel High School's Boys Beach Volleyball Team beat out SIS Cares for Animals (March), Napu Outrigger Canoe Club women's team (April), Marianas Outrigger Canoe Club (May), Shirley's Badminton Club (June), TanHoldings FC (July), Southern United FC (August), and Team Santa (December) for the NMSA Team of the Year award.

JOEL

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In the women's long course, Robyn Spaeth was the first to cross the finish line in 1:15:50. Ayano Braxton came second in 1:16:26, while Heather Brook was third in 1:16:58.

In the mountain bike long course, Nap Dizon ruled the roost with a time of 1:20:25, followed by Rolando Gacayan and Mike Aparte after completing the race in 1:20:49 and 1:22:15, respectively.

Samson Salgado topped the easy course for road bikers with a time of 39:41. He was followed by Jaycee Pangilinan and Rodmar Diaz with rides of 41:42 and 41:53, respectively.

In the mountain bike easy course, Willy Dela Rosa, Ar-



Heat hold off
Hawks 97-94, reach
Eastern semifinals

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MHS-1, FSM
ease way to
title win

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

NMSA Team of the Year shocked by win

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A team of boys who have been playing together since their elementary years was hailed NMSA Team of the Year during the 2021 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet held last April 19 at the Kensington Hall of Kensington Hotel Saipan.

Mount Carmel High School's Boys Beach Volleyball Team, which is composed of Richard Steele, Merrick Toves, Jeremiah Diaz, Brandon Lee, Jun Beom Kim, and Sam (Ji Hwan) Ryu, got the nod after going 9-0 in pool play and did not lose a set in the double-elimination 2021 PSS Boys High School 4V4 Beach Volleyball Tournament en route to the championship last February.



The team's only loss was the first set against Grace Christian Academy in the best 2-out-of-3 championship match. In nominating the team for the monthly plum last February, the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association said Toves, Steele, Diaz, Lee, Kim, and Ryu have been excelling together in school team sports since they were in MCS El-

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MARK RABAGO

Mount Carmel High School's Boys Beach Volleyball Team, from left, Jeremiah Diaz, Sam Ryu, Brandon Lee, Chris Kim, Richard Steel, and Merrick Toves are all smiles after winning the NMSA Team of the Year during the 2021 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet held last April 19 at the Kensington Hall of Kensington Hotel Saipan.

Joel Buco tops Pedal for Health

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Joel Buco returned to form after winning the 33-kilometer road bike division of the Saipan Unity Lions Club's 6th Annual Bike Race last Sunday.



The 49-year-old native of Nueva Ecija, Philippines completed the course from

Banzai Cliff to the Mobil Oil gas station in Tanapag, to the Million-Gallon Water Tank to Suicide Cliff and Bird Island, before returning to Banzai Cliff in a time of 1:08:04.

Following in his coattails were Renren Gaviola and Mark Isip with times of 1:08:25 and 1:09:30, respectively.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joel Buco, center, raises the hands of other To 3 winners in the 33-kilometer road bike division of the Saipan Unity Lions Club's 6th Annual Bike Race last Sunday. To his left is Renren Gaviola and to his right is Mark Isip.

Cuki retakes pole position in Expert Class

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Cuki Alvarez returned to the winners circle of the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race after topping the Expert Class of the Marianas Racing Association race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

The 51-year-old boat captain won both heats for a perfect 50 points. His son, Shane, came in second in both heats for 44 points, while last month's winner, Ellery Cruz, finished third both times for 36 points.

"I'm dedicating this victory to all the motocross enthusiasts out there and to all the kids, and young adults as well, even the older folks! Even at 51, I still enjoy the sport of motocross and I remain very competitive even among the young guys."

He added that he's living proof that despite what critics say, the sport of motocross is not as dangerous as they think.

"It just goes to show that motocross makes you feel so alive and despite what a lot of people think and say, that it's 'so dangerous,' it is actually quite safer than you'd imagine. As long as you ride smart and practice often, and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shane Alvarez (117) and Charles Cepeda (21) chase eventual winner Cuki Alvarez in the Expert Class of the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track.

ride within your capacity and skill level, there definitely is longevity in motocross."

He went on to encourage all who are interested in trying motocross out to join the MRA.

"We are like family and although we compete fiercely on race days, we all have a great time before, during, and after each race," he said.

In the Veterans Class, Champi Villacanes edged Dave Celis after winning the second heat. Both got 45 points with Alvarez encountering mechanical issues and limped to third with 44 points.

See CUKI on Page 19

0 4 9
DAYS LEFT UNTIL
NORTHERN MARIANAS PACIFIC MINI GAMES 2022
JUNE 17-25, 2022